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### Original Papers.

#### NEW TRANSLATION OF DANTE.

WHEN a new prose translation of Dante was announced by Carlyle, it at once suggested the earnest, keen-sighted, sharp-spoken philosopher, who has looked into the cauldron of the French Revolution as the author of the *Inferno* surveyed the terrific circles, and who in his various other writings has much in common with the vivid intellect and unflinching morality of the great Italian. It was felt that a work from such a pen would be an invaluable addition to the stock of knowledge of purely English readers; for it would bring them into closer contact with the original than any of the versions yet published. Without disparagement of the high reputation of Cary's translation, something more seemed to be required. Had Milton translated the *Divine Comedy* in his blank verse, there would have been little motive left to excite the efforts of later authors. In parts of *Paradise Lost*, and in Milton's prose, we get, as it is, the *Dantesque* idea. Perhaps some great Poet may yet arise who will solve for our English literature this great problem of an adequate metrical translation of Dante. Such a man, we maintain, will look at the world as it appears to the scrutinizing, devout, sad, yet feeling survey, of Thomas Carlyle. The present prose translation, though not from his pen (it is written by his brother), has many of the traits of the author of *Past and Present*. It is remarkable for its conscientious labor, for its gravity and dignity. Assuredly the man who reads it, who is susceptible to the strength of style, the niceties of expression, will bear away with him some true conception of the original. In this respect its merits may be discovered by comparison with the skilful yet weaker labors of Leigh Hunt, who has also presented a partial prose version.

Dr. Carlyle gives us the history of his Book. He first studied, he tells us, the *Divina Commedia* in Italy in 1831, under the guidance of the most noted Dilettanti, who played the orator, declaimed, and rhapsodized him into a fluent acquaintance with the author. This settled down into a calmer study. The book was taken up at leisure. The student grew into it. He learnt more from another class

than from the Dilettanti,—“various Italians of different ranks, who, without making any pretensions to literature, or troubling themselves with conflicting commentaries, knew all the best passages, and would recite them in a plain, sober, quiet tone—now rapid, now slow, but always with real warmth—like people who felt the meaning, and were sure of its effect. To them the *Divina Commedia* had become a kind of Bible, and given expression and expansion to what was highest in their minds.” Thus prepared by sympathy he entered upon the study of the Commentators, and found more knowledge in the historians contemporary with the poem. The next process was simplification. Having erected his building, the unsightly scaffolding could be spared. Many book-makers present the public with all the rubbish they have accumulated in their work. Dr. Carlyle belongs to a better school. He is candid enough, though a scholar, to admit that the subject is better set forth without too many notes or digressions. Those which he does give are admirable; simple in style, reserved, but always thoughtful, meditative, in sympathy with the text, and suggestive to the imagination. We know of few books so well edited.

One word as to the spirit in which Dante should be read. It may be defined as the opposite to that in which he is presented by Leigh Hunt, who brings the great work to the level of the humors, the flippancy, the affected earnestness and real indifference of any careless reader, with any preparation or want of it, who may chance to take it up. Charles Lamb recommended a solemn service on the organ as a preparation to the reading of Milton. No one who has not a deep-seated reverence in his nature should open Dante. If he does not possess the key to the book, of sincerity and depth of character, let him not touch the volume. Wisely says Dr. Carlyle at the close of the following passage, which suggests to the reader of the present day a living interest in the poem:—

“The contemporary Historians, or Chroniclers, of Florence and other parts of Italy, were studied in connexion with Dante and his earliest commentators; and here the meaning of the great Poem first began to unfold itself in detail, and apart from its mere literary merits. It became significant in proportion as it was felt to be true—to be, in fact, the sincerest, the strongest, and warmest utterance that had ever come from any human heart since the time of the old Hebrew Prophets. Diligent readers of those contemporary historians will find that the Poet, among other things, took the real historical facts of his age, and took them with surprising accuracy and transcendent impartiality, extenuating nothing, exaggerating nothing, though often rising into very high fervor and indignation. And they will also find that there was enough in those old times to excite a great, earnest, far-seeing man, such as Dante; and send him into the depths and heights of Prophetic Song. Those times had already produced Sicilian Vespers, and tragedies enough; and carried within them the seeds of Bartholomew Massacres, of Thirty Years' Wars, and French Revolutions, and the state of things that we

now see over the whole continent of Europe and elsewhere. They were times of transition, like our own—the commencement of a New Era, big with vast energies and elements of change; and ‘the straight way was lost.’ It is only the phraseology, the apparatus, and outward circumstances that are remote and obsolete; all else is the same with us as with Dante. Our horizon has grown wider than his: our circumnavigators do not find that Mount of Purgatory on the other side of the globe; the Continents of America stand revealed in his Western Hemisphere of Ocean; the Earth is no longer the ‘fixed and stable’ Centre of our Universe: but the great principles of truth and justice remain unaltered. And to those among ourselves, who, with good and generous intentions, have spoken lightly and unwisely concerning Dante, one has to say, not without sadness: Study him better. His ideas of Mercy, and Humanity, and Christian Freedom, and the means of attaining them, are not the same as yours: not the same, but unspeakably larger and sounder. He felt the infinite distance between Right and Wrong, and had to take that feeling along with him. And those gentle qualities of his, which you praise so much, lie at the root of his other heroic qualities, and are inseparable from them. All anger and indignation, it may safely be said, were much more painful to him than they can be to you. The Dante you have criticized is not the real Dante, but a mere scare-crow—seen through the unhealthy mist of your sentimentalisms.”

Everything has been done by Dr. Carlyle to facilitate a knowledge of Dante's Poem. All readers know the value of an introductory analysis of the subject matter. It is important to the reading of Shakspeare even; but still more in the present instance. The introductory sketch of the machinery and movement of the *Inferno* (difficult matters to convey) prefixed to this translation, appears to us as complete, as clear as it is possible to make it. It may be studied again and again, on the entrance to the work. When that is mastered by the reader, if he is further so fortunate as to have a copy of Flaxman's Illustrations by his side, he may, without a knowledge of Italian, enter upon the reading of this prose translation, with the certainty that his time will not be lost. But he should bring a prepared mind, and to test the force of the translation it should be read aloud.

Let the Third Canto, as given by Dr. Carlyle, be read in this way—It strikes us as a noble specimen of English. We prefer quoting it entire for the reader to picking out such special passages as the stories of Francesca and Ugolino. The object, be it remembered, is an exact word for word rendering of the Italian:—

#### CANTO III. OF THE INFERNO.

“Through me is the way into the doleful city; through me the way into the eternal pain; through me the way among the people lost. Justice moved my High Maker; Divine Power made me, Wisdom Supreme, and Primal Love, Before me were no things created, but eternal; and eternal I endure. Leave all hope, ye that enter.

"These words, of color obscure, saw I written above a gate. Whereat I: 'Master, their meaning to me is hard.'

"And he to me, as one experienced: 'Here must all distrust be left; all cowardice must here be dead. We are come to the place where I told thee thou shouldst see the wretched people, who have lost the good of the intellect.' And placing his hand on mine, with a cheerful countenance that comforted me, he led me into the secret things. Here sighs, plaints, and deep wailings resounded through the starless air: it made me weep at first. Strange tongues, horrible outcries, words of pain, tones of anger, voices deep and hoarse, and sound of hands among them, made a tumult, which turns itself unceasing in that air for ever dyed, as sand when the whirlwind breathes.

And I, my head begirt with error, said: 'Master, what is this that I hear? and who are these that seem so overcome with pain?'

And he to me: 'This miserable mode the dreary souls of those sustain, who lived without blame, and without praise. They are mingled with that abject choir of angels, who were not rebellious, nor were faithful to God; but were for themselves. Heaven chased them forth to keep its beauty from impair; and the deep Hell receives them not, for the wicked would have some glory over them.'

"And I: 'Master, what is so grievous to them, that makes them lament thus bitterly?'

"He answered: 'I will tell it to thee very briefly. These have no hope of death; and their blind life is so mean, that they are envious of every other lot. Report of them the world permits not to exist. Mercy and Judgment disdains them. Let us not speak of them; but look, and pass.'

"And I, who looked, saw an ensign, which whirling ran so quickly that it seemed to scorn all pause. And behind it came so long a train of people, that I should never have believed death had undone so many. After I had recognised some among them I looked and saw the shadow of him who from cowardice made the great refusal. Forthwith I understood and felt assured, that this was the crew of wretches, hateful to God and to his enemies. Those unfortunate, who never were alive, were naked, and sorely goaded by wasps and hornets that were there; these made their faces stream with blood, which mixed with tears was gathered at their feet by loathsome worms.

"And then, as I looked onward, I saw people on the Shore of a great river. Whereat I said: 'Master, now grant that I may know who these are; and what usage makes them seem so ready to pass over, as I discern by the faint light.'

"And he: 'The things shall be told thee when we stay our steps upon the joyless strand of Acheron.'

"Then with eyes ashamed and downcast, fearing my words might have offended him, I kept myself from speaking till we reached the stream. And lo! an old man, white with ancient hair, comes towards us in a bark, shouting: 'Woe to you, depraved spirits! Hope not ever to see heaven. I come to lead you to the other shore; into the eternal darkness; into fire and ice. And thou, who art there alive, depart thee from these that are dead.' But when he saw I departed not, he said: 'By other ways, by other ferries; not here shalt thou pass over. A lighter boat must carry thee.'

"And my guide to him: 'Charon, vex not thyself. Thus it is willed there, where what is willed can be done; and ask no more.'

Then the woolly cheeks were quiet of the steersman on the livid marsh, who round his eyes had wheels of flame. But those spirits, who were forewarned and naked, changed color and chattered with their teeth, soon as they heard the bitter words. They blasphemed God and their parents; the human kind; the place, the time, and origin of their seed, and of their birth. Then all of them together, sorely weeping, drew to the accursed shore, which awaits every man that fears not God. Charon the demon, with eyes of glowing coal, beckoning them collects them all; smites with his oar whoever lingers. As the leaves of autumn fall off one after the other, till the branch sees all its spoils upon the ground; so one by one the evil seed of Adam cast themselves from that shore at signals, as the bird at its call. Thus they depart on the brown water; and ere they have landed on the other shore, a fresh crowd collects on this.

"My son," said the courteous Master, 'those who die under God's wrath, all assemble here from every country. And they are prompt to pass the river, for Divine Justice spurs them so, that fear is changed into desire. By this way no good spirit ever passes; and hence, if Charon complains of thee, thou easily mayest know the import of his words.'

"When he had ended, the dusky champion trembled so violently, that the remembrance of my terror bathes me still with sweat. The tearful ground gave out wind, and flashed with a crimson light, which conquered all my senses; and I fell, like one who is seized with sleep."

Dr. Carlyle's book has, besides the notes and introduction to which we have alluded, a condensed and valuable Bibliographical sketch, and beneath the translation on the same page, the Italian text. It is besides well printed by the Harpers, with the exception of an occasional Websterism in the orthography.

## Reviews.

### ARCHITECTURE.

*Hints on Public Architecture.* By Robert Dale Owen. Prepared on behalf of the Building Committee of the Smithsonian Institute. G. P. Putnam: New York and London.

SEVERAL years ago, some two or three previous to that session of Congress which passed the Smithsonian Institute Bill, we remember to have seen in the Congressional Library, suspended in a neat gilt frame, a colored perspective of a "Design for one end of the proposed Smithsonian Institute, by Robert Dale Owen, drawn by James Skirving." We remember to have been painfully affected by the rapid conveyance of its perspective lines towards the vanishing point, and somewhat amazed at the temerity of Mr. Skirving in the bold use of primitives in his pigments; faults, however, which we pardoned on hearing that he was an amateur in such matters, and that his faculty lay in the use of such tools as houses are built not designed with, especially in that most important one in all building erections, the trowel. We could not, however, so easily pass over the temerity of such a design for such a building, and hunted about for plans and other elevations to match, in order to give our opinion of the matter, if called upon therefor, as we frequently are on such subjects; but, finding nothing further and no one to explain, we took leave of the drawing in simple wonderment why a design for one end only should

have been exhibited, and with the confident expectation that that would be the end of it.

It seems now that there must have been plans suitable thereto, though we did not see them, since we are assured, in the work before us, that "the ground plan of the Smithsonian edifice was, in substance, determined, before even the style of Architecture was fixed upon."—P. 85. Little did we think, when we smiled at the absurdities of Mr. Owen's design, that the arrangement and aspect of the edifice in *futuro* had thus been pre-ordained by the prospective chairman of its building committee. Fortunately, Mr. Owen's ideas have found in the architect of the building a more skilful expositor of "Norman work," as the archaeologists call it, than in the operative who assisted his *début*, and the Institute is growing up a very fair sample of all the shades and varieties of that style of art, though borrowing, occasionally, a pattern or two from its Romanesque, Byzantine, and Gothic neighbors.

Love of any particular variety of art seems, like the exercise of the passion in any other direction, "to grow by what it feeds on," and the architectural devotion of the Chairman of the Building Committee of the Institute has passed into the phase of monomania—indeed a very full moon Norman lunacy. Not content with presiding over the genesis of the vast structure under his charge, where he can semi-arch, and buttress, and machicolate, and corbel, and campanile to his heart's content, he has, with the Library of the Institute at his elbow, pored over the perfections of "My Normandie" till, like Quixote, he can restrain himself no longer, but must needs sally forth from his study to reform the world-architectural, and stop the Grecian grievance. Hence these "hints," which are nothing more than a crusade against all past forms of Art, save that which he has selected as the very pink and perfection of propriety, the Dulcinea of his affections. Mr. Owen has here set up for an Architectural reformer. He would have us build our habitations as his father would have had us cut our clothes, all of one pattern. Lady Morgan, in her Book of the Boudoir, describes the garment proposed by the "mighty Owen of Lanark" as the fit adornment of the outward man and woman of society, reformed and remodelled upon the associative principle, a specimen of which, a short tunic, as she describes it, was exhibited by the philosophical Sartor at one of her soirées. Reforming seems to run in the family, only the son takes a wider range than the sire, and would prescribe the covering proper for the aggregated man, his participated "shelter from the elements," or, as expressed in the "Hints" with greater directness, his defence from "the wet."—Pp. 13-18.

Little or nothing is known popularly about architecture. Even men of education and of travel, who would blush to be found at fault in discriminating between the Venetian and Bolognese schools of painting, or between Greek and Roman sculpture, frequently are heard to confess that they know not the Doric from the Ionic, or to ask if such a thing be *pure Gothic*. To the great mass of the public, therefore, a book like the "Hints" comes as "one having authority." Its form of quarto, its imposing illustrations, and still more, the broad seal of the "Institute for the Diffusion of Knowledge among Men," stamped upon its title page, give it a validity which to question is "rank mutiny." Still, it is so very questionable that we must "speak to it."

To begin then at the beginning. Mr. Owen, at the very outset, makes the great and con-

tinual mistake of calling Architecture an *Art* of utility. He fails, as all before him, nearly, have done, to discriminate between the Science and the Art of Architecture. Now its art commences just where utility is consummated and ceases its requirements. Its uses being fulfilled, that which constitutes it an Art then begins to act. While the utility of a column as a supporting prop is recognised, who has yet shown the utility that shaped the scrolls of the Ionic capital? While the projecting mass of a cornice has its purpose of protection to the wall below, where is the use of all those beautiful series of mouldings, cimas, fillets, cavettos, and so on, which give loveliness to this member, and make it artistic? In the shaping of a corbel, why should it be moulded or sculptured?—that conduces nothing to its serviceableness. The art of architecture is totally out of the place of its common use. Mr. Owen says "that he has frequently fallen into the same train of thought which runs through Thomas Hope's well-known Historical Essay." He could not have followed in a worse track, in respect to the artistic considerations connected with Architectural styles, for Mr. Hope is a gross materialist in this art, who sees nothing in its various developments but the controlling influences of material and early associations. To him the Parthenon is but a petrified hut, the Egyptian temple but a cave walked out into the open air, and Gothic architecture but an accident. By saying that Architecture "is an Art of which the essential purpose is to furnish shelter from the elements," that very department of its practice where it is most *purely* Art, namely, monumental architecture, is entirely lost sight of. For here, where there are no requirements of utility, no fetterings of organized purpose, has it freest artistic scope. Those features in architecture which are useless, in the ordinary acceptance of the term, are precisely those which make it an Art. There is a use in them, but it is one of a higher order than the word generally implies—a moral use, the unsensualizing of man's nature. On this we cannot here dilate.

As a specimen of pure twaddle, we mark the following:—"When the eye of some citizen of this new world, as he descends the Rhine, rests on the castellated heights, of which the dark masses and picturesque outline so greatly add to the romantic beauty of that noble stream, shall he turn with a sigh to reflect that his country presents no remains of such imposing grandeur? Let him call to mind, that these lordly castles, with all their poetical accessories of moat and bastion, of battlement and tower, were once the strongholds of titled robbers, the receptacles of plunder, the scenes of extortion, and cruelty, and rapine. They cursed while they adorned the country." Yet is it from these very castles, these hindrances to the happiness of the million, these democratic abominations, that the accessories of bastion and battlement in the Smithsonian building have been most largely drawn by this identical chairman, who thus would perpetuate the associations he condemns, connected with this Rhenish-Norman style in this New World. Nothing would be easier than, on the other side, to conjure up all the beautiful dependencies of the feudal system, and its paternal relationships; the hospitality of the Hall, the beneficence of the buttry, the contemplation of the cloister, knighthood upon its knees, and the poor provided for. But the Beautiful in Art is independent of these associations, and a few of those fine old Rhine Castles upon the banks

of the Hudson, no matter what their history, would give more help to the advancement of pure taste in architecture than all the Hints from all the Chairmen of all the Building Committees in the Union.

Among the grounds on which Mr. Owen advocates the Norman style, one is, that it is cheap. This idea of cheapness is, in fact, the *motif* of the work. For example; "The more legitimate adornments of rich carvings, delicate tracery, glowing arabesques, must enter, if at all, but sparingly, into our republican style. In all its accessories, whatever entails heavy expense should be avoided. Smoothly to dress the external face of a building, for example, adds largely to its cost. It is, therefore, no inconsiderable item in favor of a style, if, like the Norman or Gothic, it harmonizes with a rough character of finish." In a note, it is stated that the Smithsonian Institute, the Procrustean standard, "supplies an example of rough finish," and that to have given it a smooth finish would have added fourteen to fifteen thousand dollars to its cost. Now we are elsewhere informed that the Institute is to cost \$215,000, so that we do not see, in this case, the largeness of additional expense insisted on. Besides, rough surface, or *drove ashlar*, is not confined in its application to the Norman or Gothic styles. It is an essential characteristic in many portions of Italian Design, where its effect is marvellously finer than in the more attenuated forms of either Norman (such Norman as Mr. Owen upholds) or Gothic. Did Mr. Owen never see or hear of the Pitti Palace?

This cheapness, this desire of producing the most show at the least cost, is the bane of Modern Architecture. It is a poison gnawing into its very marrow, and affecting the whole moral tone and bearing of society. The true excellence of architecture is its exhibition of thought and labor, of intentional durability, of accomplishment for future good. It is a stultification to argue that we can build at the same time cheaply and strongly. The value of materials and labor fluctuates within narrow limits in our times, and certain quantities of these being essential to the making up of an edifice, it is absurd to suppose that good quality in the one, and faithfulness in the other, can be had cheaply and honestly. There is a self-deception in this matter which many who build are guilty of, who afterwards wring their hands at the result. Of Mr. Owen's tabular statement of cheapness of styles, and of his basis of calculations, we shall have something to say in detail in our next notice. At present we must close this by remarking that we cannot see upon what grounds an argument can be founded for the employment of a cheap style in the public edifices in this country. Should we build cheap churches? Rather would we make them as splendid, as precious, as material and Art could make them, and as durable as the Pyramids. Should our governmental buildings be in a cheap style? Rather should their magnificence express the greatness, the wealth, the infinite resources, of the land that bears them.

But we must postpone the further consideration of the Norman, as the model style for the Model Republic, for an early occasion.

TOWN AND COUNTRY.—"If you look out of your window in a large town, you will be in an epic mood; if in a village, only in a lyric, or even an idyllic."—*Jean Paul*.

#### HUMAN PROGRESS.

*The Law of Human Progress*: an Oration before the Phi Beta Kappa Society of Union College, Schenectady, July 25th, 1848, by Charles Sumner. Boston: Ticknor. 1849.

A PAINFUL self-consciousness of human virtue seems to be a characteristic of much of the goodness of the present day. Men are only to be persuaded to be better by realizing to the fullest extent how good they are already. Thus they band together in philanthropic brotherhood, take to themselves fine-sounding names, conduct magnificent correspondences, advertise themselves in the newspapers, pass complimentary and reciprocal resolutions, invest themselves with all the pride, pomp, and circumstance of corporate authority. The individual is neglected in the mass. A man is like a balloon, incapable of motion without inflation. We have no disposition to disparage the results which flow from such mighty means. The machinery which is set in operation no doubt is attended with its benefits. The charity which is intended to pour as an ample river into the great ocean of human society, though it does not perhaps always reach its aim, may form a huge delta, and irrigate a vast surface of the land—enriching with its bounties an army of agents, secretaries, tract-makers, trunk-makers, and other producers, who certainly ought under no circumstances to starve. In the meanwhile the perennial fountains of charity are flowing on noiseless and inexhaustible. Men and women are ever sacrificing themselves for one another; the mother expends her life upon a son's ingratitude; the wife consigns herself to living martyrdom; the poor bear one another's burdens; the right hand giveth, and the left knoweth it not. Schoolmasters, clergymen, physicians, minister everywhere, and no diary is kept of their disinterestedness. The greatest minds, said Wordsworth, are those of whom the world hears least. For intellect read heart, and the saying has more truth.

But a man should not grumble at the spirit of his age. It is, after all, the bridge which carries him safely over the stream; he should keep inside the parapet, cross, and be grateful.

An occasional self-complacent passage of Mr. Sumner, in his brilliant and generally happy oration, has, notwithstanding, led us to reflect on this matter of consciousness of one's privileges, and to see in it not the clearest proof of the wisdom of the present day. Glorification is always suspicious; taken in moderate quantities, upon fit occasions, it may be an incentive to future noble actions, but it should never be allowed to become habitual. It will run to waste and die in mere words. Commend us rather to that humility so beautifully insisted upon by Jeremy Taylor in his sermon on the Countess of Carbery, of whom he wrote that "like a fair taper, when she shined to all the room, yet round about her own station she had cast a shadow and a cloud, and she shined to everybody but herself."

Mr. Sumner goes so far as to make it a reproach to ancient nations that they never conceived of the doctrine of Progress; in other words never imagined themselves wiser and better than their predecessors, and that they were transmitting a stock of virtue for their posterity to mount to perfection upon. On the contrary, says he, their poets and historians dreamt of the golden age not in the future but the past, and thought of themselves as at best brazen faces or iron reprobates. So sang Hesiod, so echoed Virgil and Ovid. The early Christians, he adds, made rather better work

of it, and held forth a millennium as an incentive to the faithful, but it was reserved for modern times to broach and perfect the new and genuine doctrine of Human Progress. The Italian Vico traced the progressive development of history; Leibnitz turned it into vision; but the French were the masters of the idea. Descartes, Pascal, Fontenelle, Turgot, and Condorcet saw the race passing on to perfection, the last through the bloody mists of the Reign of Terror. "It is with regret I add," says Mr. Sumner, and the fact, by the way, is suspicious, "that we seem to be little indebted to England for early illustrations of this law." As for the Chinese, their fixed and melancholy condition is traceable to their knowing nothing about it. Their doom is written. Mr. S. has recorded it—"They do not know the Law of Human Progress." Alas! knowledge is not always virtue.

At first sight, this arraignment of ancient ignorance looks somewhat startling. Was there a great principle of action, the law rises to this in Mr. Sumner's hands, unknown to the prophets of Palestine, the sages of Greece and Rome, that Solomon overlooked in his universal search, and Socrates and Cicero died unblest with? It would be no disparagement to admit that they knew nothing of steam-engines or telegraphs; in these physical facts we have the advantage of them, probably, but could they be ignorant of a great moral law? They acted upon it if they did not preach it, and where a virtue is concerned, give us deeds before speech. The principle of the law of progress is involved in the planting of a tree, the bequest of property, the education of a son. All good men have always built for the future, and hoped too. Every good man wishes his child to be better than himself, and takes what measures he can to secure it. The continuous existence and development of the race is the law in question. When philosophers would die for a great cause to be realized in the future, they may be said to have known something of the law of Human Progress. They had not so many philosophies in those days, but they had the facts.

The Progress of the Race is an old principle, what there is sound in it. It was quite as vital to the men of Athens as it is to the men of New York; the former wrote it in dramas, and statues, and temples; the latter mouth it and preach it.

We do not believe in the degeneracy of the present age; neither did the old men who lauded the past, according to Horace. Man will always grumble, and your grumblers are sometimes better reformers than your perfectionists.

It was no such absurd doctrine, either, which went back to the beginning of the world for the perfection of the race. It is at least, and that with a large part of the world is something, sanctioned by the Bible. As the eloquent South has it—"An Aristotle was but the rubbish of an Adam, and Athens but the ruins of a Paradise."

"Antiquity," says Bacon, quoted approvingly by Sumner, "is the youth of the world,"—and green accordingly; wisdom is to be sought in the latter age. But the philosopher's further illustration should have been added—"A dwarf on the shoulders of a giant sees further than the giant himself." The new theorists put the giant on top of the dwarf.

The Law of Progress is nothing more than the statistics of happiness, the advance of the mass rather than the perfection of the individual. The well-to-do citizen of the present day who lolls on a sofa after a French dinner,

and reads Macaulay, might have been in old times a helot without a shirt to his back and utterly unconscious of the alphabet; on the contrary he might have been a Plato or a Socrates. And vice versa your sage of old could still find a modern body for himself in the person of a slave and an ignoramus. Are we certain that there are more Platos in the world than there were in ancient Greece? Perhaps not! Is the physique of Boston the modern equal to that of the ancient Athens? Try the question by the statues of the naked inhabitants?

Has not Mr. Sumner rather stated a topic than promulgated a law? Let him sit down for a half hour with the philosophers assembled at Headlong Hall, in Mr. Peacock's delightful scholar's novel, and listen to the ingenious and amusing talk of Mr. Foster, the Perspectibilian, Mr. Escot, the Deteriorationist, and Mr. Jenkison, the Statu-Quo-ite.

In the physical improvements, the enlargement and extension of the *commoda vite*, much may be urged, as in the following pleasant passage of Mr. Sumner's oration:—

#### PROGRESS DEFICIENT.

"This same undue tenacity of existing things, and repugnance to what is new, has thrown impediments successively in the way of the great improvements by which travel and intercourse among men have been promoted. It might be supposed that stage-coaches, when first introduced into England, would have been welcome, though novel, as an acknowledged aid to the comfort of men. But this was not universally the case. An early writer calls for their suppression, breaking forth against them in this wise: 'These coaches,' he says, 'are one of the greatest mischiefs that hath happened of late years to the kingdom—mischievous to the public, destructive to trade, and prejudicial to lands. First, by destroying the breed of good horses, the strength of the nation, and making men careless of attaining to good horsemanship, a thing so useful and commendable in a gentleman; for, hereby, they become weary and listless when they ride a few miles, and unwilling to get on horseback, not able to endure frost, snow, or rain, or to lodge in the fields; and what reason, save only their using themselves so tenderly, and then riding in these stage-coaches, can be given for this their inability? Secondly, by hindering the breed of watermen, who are the nursery for seamen, and they the bulwark of the kingdom; for if these coaches were down, watermen, as formerly, would have work, and be encouraged to take apprentices, whereby their number would every year greatly increase. Thirdly, by lessening of his majesty's revenues; now four or five travel in a coach together, without any servants, and it is they that occasion the consumption of beer and ale on the roads, and all inn-keepers do declare, that they sell not half the drink, nor pay the king the excise they did before these coaches were set up.'\* Such was the conservative bill of indictment against stage-coaches. But the history of canals, of steamboats, and lastly of railways, shows the existence of similar prejudices. Even Mr. Jefferson (and I cannot mention him as an immoderate conservative), when told that the State of New York had explored the route of a canal from the Hudson to Lake Erie and found it practicable—that same canal which now, like a thread of silver, winds its way through your imperial State—replied that 'it was a very fine project, and might be executed a century hence.' It is related that the Chelsea pensioners, on first seeing the steamboat upon the waters of the Thames, as they looked out from their palatial home, said; 'we do not like the steamboat; it is so contrary to nature.' In our own country Fitch early brought forward the idea of a steamboat amidst ill-disguised sneers; and at a later day, Fulton,

while building his first steamboat at New York, was viewed with indifference, or with contempt, as a visionary; and when at last he had accomplished the long distance to Albany, distrust of the Future still held the public mind, and it was doubted if the voyage could be accomplished again, or, if done, it was doubted if the invention could be made of any permanent value. Thus did this evil spirit perplex the noble aims of these beneficent discoverers! And in England, almost within our own day, as late as 1825, railways were pronounced 'altogether delusions and impossibilities,' and the conservative *Quarterly Review*, alluding to the opinion of certain engineers that the railway engine could go eighteen or twenty miles an hour, says; 'These gross exaggerations may delude for a time, but must end in the mortification of those concerned. We should as soon expect the people of Woolwich to suffer themselves to be fired off upon one of Congreve's ricochet rockets, as trust themselves to the mercy of such a machine, going at such a rate.'\*

But after all does not old Aubrey make out something of a case?

Allowing to the Progressionists for a moment, and even they will blush at the admission, that our Architecture and Statuary are superior to those of ancient Greece, that our Paintings surpass those of Italy, that Joel Barlow is a greater poet than Homer, and Jack Cade a better tragedy than Macbeth; allowing all this and much besides, on the score of advancing perfection, what are we to think of the more immediate man himself? Are any of the restraints of the Decalogue obsolete? Would they were. Do men fight less, cheat less, obey their evil passions less? Can they inherit virtues as they do goods and chattels? Alas! you may accumulate and bequeath property, but you cannot transmit honor; you may collect libraries, but you cannot incorporate wisdom. "Therein the patient must minister to himself."

*Gospel Studies.* By Alexander Vinet, D.D., Professor of Theology in Lausanne, Switzerland, Author of "Vital Christianity," &c. With an Introduction. By Robert Baird, D.D. M. W. Dodd.

WE have never been able to discern any propriety in calling Vinet the Chalmers of Switzerland; except that each was the greatest preacher of his country, they were remarkably unlike. Both were eloquent, but in very different ways. Chalmers, even to a proverb, was fond of amplification and effective repetition; one thought, developed with a magical succession of fresh accessories, predominates in each discourse. Vinet, beyond any writer of our day, was characterized by the perpetual progress from novelty to novelty. He reminds us of a remark of Walter Savage Landor on Thucydides and Demosthenes, that these great authors laid it down to themselves as a rule, never to let one sentence give a hint of what the next should be. The originality of Vinet

\* *Quarterly Review*, vol. xxxi., p. 361. The illustrations of this spirit might be indefinitely extended. There is one, that has been made familiar to the world by Mr. Macaulay's History, since this Address was delivered, which has too much point to be omitted. As late as the close of the reign of Charles II., the streets of London, with a population of half a million, were not lighted at night, and, as a natural consequence, became the frequent scene of assassinations and outrages of all kinds, perpetrated under the shelter of darkness. At last, in 1685, it was proposed to place a light before every tenth door, on moonless nights. This projected improvement was enthusiastically applauded and furiously attacked. "The cause of darkness," says Mr. Macaulay, "was not left undefended. There were fools in that age who opposed the introduction of what was called the new light, as strenuously as fools of our age have opposed the introduction of vaccination and railroads, as strenuously as the fools of an age anterior to the dawn of history doubtless opposed the introduction of the plough and of alphabetical writing."—*History of England*, cap. 3.

\* *Harleian Miscellany*, vol. viii. pp. 32-35 (ed. 8vo. 1810); *The Grand Concern of England*, 1673.

is his principal charm. He treats the most common topics of theology with a freshness which fascinates us like a discovery. In the conduct of his metaphors, he so fuses the thought in the illustration, as to give the most familiar truths the brilliancy of inventions; and by penetrating and profound analysis reveals new relations of truth, which elude common sagacity, and are indeed so many new truths. There are some of his doctrines (not fundamental to his system) which do not command our assent; but the main body of his arguments are irresistible. The Swiss mind, as intermediate between the French and German, seems in his case to have caught the excellences of both; the ardor and brightness and versatility of one, the contemplative depth and poetic elevation of the other. In the pellucid strength of crystal, we have an emblem of his style which loses much in the best translation. The tracts here given to the American reader are happily rendered, and afford a good specimen of the author's more popular discourses. Short as some of them are, they are not to be read in a hurry; one must lay down the volume, in order to think; for Vinet does not fill up the chasms in his argument. No writer has more fully realized John Foster's hypothesis of sermonizing, in both its particulars; first, that there shall be constant progress in the thoughts, and secondly, that they shall be divested of the technicalities of system. We believe the perusal of this volume will be an excellent discipline for those whose religious views need enlivening: all here is full of nobleness, aspiring speculation, and enthusiastic love. That personal attachment to the Redeemer, which was remarkable in Dr. Arnold, is exemplified by Vinet, in frequent bursts of sublime yet tender affection, which carry the soul upwards. Those who rise from the enjoyment of these short essays, will be apt to seek for some of the lamented author's more elaborate productions; such as his *Life of Stapfer*, and his treatise on the Separation of Church and State. The publisher has done his part well, and has given us the book in an agreeable shape.

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## MEDICAL PUBLICATIONS.

*British and Foreign Med.-Chir. Review*—April.

*Western Lancet*, for January and February.

Prof. Lawson on the *Nature and Treatment of Cholera*.

Prof. Harrison's *Clinical Lecture on Cholera*.

*Medical Examiner*, for May.

Tardieu's *Treatise on Epidemic Cholera*.

Translated by S. L. Bigelow, D.D. Boston: Ticknor & Co.

Francke's *Theory and Practice of Hydropathy*. John Wiley.

So large a portion of Medical Literature is now occupied with the subject of Cholera, and the public mind is in so feverish a state in reference to this dreaded scourge, that the appearance of information, accurate and minute, will be hailed with much satisfaction. To those in search of reliable knowledge, the translation of M. Tardieu's Lectures delivered in Paris in 1848-49, will be especially acceptable, for it comprises a sketch of the history of the disease, an accurate description of its symptoms, the latest views of its pathology, an investigation of its causes, with an elaborate discussion of the various sanitary, prophylactic, and curative measures that have been recently recommended. To the translation of the original, an Appendix of 104 pages has been added, by "A Fellow of the Massachu-

setts Medical Society," which embodies a large amount of valuable information. It is a book well suited to the exigencies of the present moment, when those who have witnessed the sad ravages of the disease in previous years, alike with those who are yet to gain their practical knowledge, will seek for the light which recent investigations have thrown on the various points of interest connected with it.

Dr. Lawson has aimed at presenting a brief digest of the more important facts which have been steadily accumulating for several years in reference to Cholera. He is a believer in the non-contagious influence of the disease, with the reservation, however, that under certain circumstances it has been and can be introduced and propagated by communication with infected persons, an opinion which appears most adapted to the explanation of the various invasions of Cholera into the United States. It will be recollected, that in 1832 the disease appeared to travel in the course of the great highways of the Hudson, the Erie Canal, the Ohio, and Mississippi; that in 1848, the disease resembling and said to be Cholera, was imported in a vessel from Havre, and localized itself in the neighborhood of the Quarantine Station at Staten Island, and that nearly simultaneously it also was brought to New Orleans, where it continued to prevail throughout the winter; while the present epidemic is traceable to no contagion, but manifested itself in New York in a quarter where we might reasonably anticipate an atmospheric disease to settle, and has since appeared in other sections of our city, precisely in accordance with this theory. Passing over the stage of accession, which as others Dr. L. considers readily managed by the timely application of remedies, we find him a decided advocate for the use of the lancet in connexion with stimulants in the second stage, and this he conceives to be the great feature in the treatment of Cholera. For the stage of collapse he believes there is but one remedy, viz. injection of the veins, though it must be admitted that the slender experience of a single case, and that too a fatal one, is hardly sufficient to induce practitioners to adopt this mode of treatment. In his one case, Dr. L. saw, as has been generally the result, the great amelioration of the symptoms which succeeded the injection of a solution of saline substances into the venous system, but his experience serves only to confirm the observation of preceding observers that in a few hours the evidences of collapse recur and the patient dies. The ordinary success of this mode of treatment he states to be one in five cases.

Prof. Harrison makes some clinical remarks in reference to two alleged cases of Cholera, which he affirms to be merely aggravated cases of ordinary Cholera Morbus, one of which was fatal. The post-mortem appearances of Cholera Morbus are so little familiar to the profession in this region, that it may be interesting to know that in the fatal case the lesion noticed was inflammation of the mucous coat of the lower part of the ileum and of the upper part of the colon. There appears to be a morbid sensitiveness both on the part of the profession and of the laity to the acknowledgment of the existence of any epidemic disease in a community; hence in the early access of an epidemic we find a smoothing away of the truth that militates against the advance of knowledge. By referring to Prof. Lawson's pamphlet we find that of 39 cases, 26 presented "various shades of redness in patches diffuse or punctiform," of the mucous membrane of the small intestines. Prof. H. does not

state what the appearances were that led him to characterize the specimen as one of muco-enteritis, but it is possible that an early case might readily be misconstrued. Ere this Prof. H. has had abundance of proof that his case was at least the *avant courier* of the fatal pestilence. Doubtless later numbers of the *Lancet* present the more matured views of both Professors, but they have not come to hand. Of Mr. Baikie's translation of Francke's *New Theory of Disease applied to Hydropathy*, which is "intended for popular use," but little need be said. Such books tend only to the aggravation of disease, and serve to make good the remark of an early practitioner of this city, that "he liked to see a certain System of Domestic Medicine in a family, for he was sure of plenty of practice in that house." A considerable portion of the book is occupied with a critique on Priessnitz, the peasant author of the hydropathic treatment, which is perhaps the best part of the work; and had the author exercised equal perseverance in making himself master of a correct theory of medicine, we should have been relieved of the necessity of chronicling another addition to the crudities of "hydropathic instinct." We are happy to learn that it is "no uncommon occurrence at Graefenberg, to find patients who are already in their third and fourth year; nay, there are some who have been under treatment for six or seven years," for such perseverance in the acquisition of health argues a firmness that so nearly verges on obstinacy of faith, that we cannot but attribute to them the possession of high qualifications as dupes. No doubt some reward will be reaped from their determination. In connexion with the subject of Cholera, it may not be uninteresting to learn the hydropathic method of treating the disease. Francke seems to consider it as not materially differing from that necessary in Dysentery; injections of cold water are to be given, with sitz-baths and wet bandages, and if the case assumes a more severe form, wet packing and strong frictions of the feet are to be employed until the activity of the skin is reawakened; after which, the "water is again to be directed to the digestive system." The value of this method of treatment is predicated on the successful issue of a single case.

The *British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review* well sustains the reputation acquired by the separate journals before their amalgamation; in proof of which, it is necessary only to refer to the critiques on *Practical Medicine*, and on the *Diseases of Children*, contained in the number for April.

*The Adventures of Jeremiah Saddlebags, in his Travel to the Gold Diggins*. With profuse Illustrations. Stringer & Townsend. New York. 1849.

It would ill become our human nature, did we forget that most glorious, fine associate of our schoolboy days, Jeremiah Saddlebags, whose sole fault was his easy good-nature, which plunged him into reckless generosity, and in his manhood ripened into a deficiency of practical ability as a man of business. He early caught the gold fever, and left for the Pacific El Dorado: his travels were chequered with incident, and the perils of his voyages wonderful. "Tis of no use for Saddlebags to go to California," was the universal say in "his immediate circle;" "Fate cut him out as one of her playthings, and all his endeavors will only end in misfortune and trial." The saying was too true, and after a brief absence he returned; having seen more, suffered more, and got less value for it than either Lieutenant Beale or

**Colonel Fremont.** With characteristic frankness he placed in the hands of worthy publishers the terse memoranda of his travels, and they with characteristic faithfulness have presented them to the world in an amusing and instructive pictorial light. How he came to leave New York; how he did leave it; what he saw on the water; what on land; how he fought duels with alligators; made treaties with Indians; dug gold and lost it; died of starvation and came to life again; and how above all, through many tribulations, he remained true to his early love, and returned to tell her of his adventures; will be best learned by investing a quarter dollar in purchasing his book. And when we add that the proceeds are intended to make up for the heavy losses and grievous wrongs he suffered, we have said all that a kind critic could say, or a generous reading public require.

*Chemical Technology; or, Chemistry applied to the Arts and to Manufactures.* By Dr. F. Knapp, Professor at the University of Giessen. Translated and edited by Dr. Edmund Ronalds and Dr. Thomas Richardson. First American edition, with Notes and Additions, by Professor Walter R. Johnson. Vol. II. Illustrated with 246 engravings on wood. Philadelphia: Lea & Blanchard. 1849.

Much valuable information as to the useful arts and manufactures was contained in the numbers of the Cabinet Cyclopædia, edited by Dr. Lardner, republished some years ago in Philadelphia. But the rapid improvements of the age, the introduction of new machinery and better theories as to chemical processes, have cast that publication into the shade. Prof. Knapp has embodied all these improvements in the present work, and it will surely not be any loss to the student that it has passed through the press in three countries equally but dissimilarly remarkable for skill in manufactures. For a basis, there is the patient industry and perfect elaboration of the scientific German; next the learning and sagacity of English minds; and last an accomplished editor in this land of grasping and ingenious enterprise, has bestowed his labors.

We are informed that the series of works on the arts, especially those connected with Chemistry, will contain, besides the Pharmacy and Technology already published, treatises on Metallurgy, and on the Articles of Food.

The subjects are divided into groups, separated by the character of the material involved in the process. The first and perhaps most important group is characterized by the phenomenon of combustion, eliciting heat, the pregnant cause of chemical changes, and light so necessary to the exercise of industrial pursuits by our race, as well as to their refinement and comfort.

This fundamental process being thoroughly investigated, the second group embraces all manufactures in which the alkalies play a prominent part. Under this head is contained the description of the making of soap, and with this the first volume concludes. The second group is contained in the second volume, and the ancient art of working in glass is treated at great length. Glass was early discovered by man, and the tradition carries us back to the great mercantile nation of antiquity. How strange that on the properties of that fusible salt the Tyrian navigator raised musingly from the spot where his fire of marine plants had smoldered on the sea-shore, were to depend the ease and elegance of manipulations about to disclose the nature and composition of the elements to man; while, through the same properties, the telescope and microscope should sound the universe in its vastness, or explore the minute handiwork of the organized creation.

The third group contains the manufactures involving the use of the clays. Here we find the most ancient of the arts, those of the potter and

the brick-maker, and the highly important one to agriculture of the tile-maker.

The fourth group is devoted to the preparations of lime and the alkaline earths, including the manufacture of cements and mortars.

The two volumes form a repertory of every branch dependent on mineral chemistry, and all well arranged, and receiving a space proportioned to the relative importance of each. Every needful detail is given, and there is no redundancy. A person with ordinary understanding could, with an elementary knowledge of chemistry, direct and oversee any of the arts described in the work.

They are treated not so much to suggest a principle as to follow and exhibit every change, until the sought-for product is obtained. The illustrations are taken from apparatus in use in the largest establishments, and embracing all new improvements. This makes the work so valuable to the business man. In point of execution these cuts are the most distinct we ever saw in a work of this kind, the lines for the most part being white, on a ground of perfect black. In the two volumes there are no less than 460 cuts.

But if a workman could take the book in his hand, and under its direction produce the desired article, this is not the only merit. The calculations, statistics, formulæ are strictly scientific, and founded on the great principles which have rendered mathematical symbols applicable to the chemist's use. In fact, a competent knowledge of the science might be acquired from the perusal of the technology alone.

The American edition contains, besides valuable notes on the subject of our coals and experiments conducted by the editor on that subject under the authority of the government, elevations and plans of American machinery, some newly patented, and the results of a series of experiments made by Col. Totten, of the U. S. Army, on mortars and cements.

For accuracy and completeness, we know no work that can compare with this Technology; and the style of the cuts, and getting up of the American edition, is a very excellent indication of our own advance in the arts described in the body of the book.

*History and Practice of the Art of Photography; or, the Production of Pictures through the Agency of Light.* By Henry H. Snelling. Illustrated with woodcuts. New York: G. P. Putnam. 1849.

The practical instructions in the Art of Photography, by Mr. Snelling, will prove extremely acceptable to artists and amateurs who desire to obtain correct information in that elegant branch. There are so many slight errors and oversights to which the delicate processes of the Daguerreotype are exposed in the hands of a beginner, that the experience of an adept is purchased cheaply at almost any price; and these failures are sometimes repeated so constantly as to induce one to abandon the pursuit as hopeless. In addition to a methodical account of the state of the art of taking pictures on plates, according to the course pursued in this country, the work contains a description of the apparatus, and the chemical materials employed, and where the same can be procured of the best quality.

One chapter is devoted to an analysis of the very excellent work of Mr. Hunt on the chemical phenomena of light, a standard authority on that subject. The suggestions here contained, and the summary of the researches of Sir John Herschell, Wm. Talbot, and others, will prove instructive and interesting to experimenters.

We cannot, however, approve of the spirit or tone of the remarks on the patent lately granted in this country to Mr. Talbot, the inventor of the Calotype. It may be that improvement goes on rapidly where an art or discovery is thrown open to the exercise of the ingenuity of the whole community, and that where a patent is issued, the field of experiment is not so diligently searched; but the great principle remains unshaken, that a discoverer and inventor is entitled to the rewards

of his talent and labor, and no one should grudge him the limited time he enjoys a monopoly in that which is for all time a boon to mankind.

*A History of Wonderful Inventions.* Illustrated with numerous Engravings on Wood. 2 parts. Harper & Brothers.

The inventions which in these admirably managed sketches justly claim the title of wonderful, are the Mariner's Compass, the Light-house, Gun Powder and Gun Cotton, Clocks, Printing, the Thermometer, the applications of Steam, the Railway, Gas Light, and the Electric Telegraph. These are all handled in a lively and entertaining manner; a clever anecdote or a bit of biography encouraging the attention of the young and unscientific in the study of the diagrams illustrative of the purely mechanical portions of the subject. In the sketch of Richard Arkwright, who was at first a barber's apprentice, and subsequently went up and down the country travelling to collect hair for wigs, we have this anecdote, which is not without an especial moral at the present moment. "This business (the hair collecting) is one still somewhat extensively followed on the Continent with no small profit; and a curious instance of the way in which it is made available, is said to have occurred not long since in one of the western counties of England. A wag, with as much wit as he had little of honesty, made his appearance there when a report of a violent epidemic in the country was very prevalent, and coolly issued a notice to the rustic inhabitants of the place and its neighborhood, intimating that he was sent down by the Government to cut the hair of all the residents in the district, with a view to prevent the spread of the cholera. As he had stated that his office was to be fulfilled free of expense, he had soon a numerous assemblage of patients, and quickly despoiled the country maidens of the luxuriant tresses with which nature had provided them."

The woodcuts and printing of these volumes are in the Harpers' best style. The book is a reprint from England, and of course we hear more about Professor Wheatstone's Magnetic Telegraph than we do of Professor Morse's. A purely American book on this plan would be provided with abundant material.

*Consolatio; or, Comfort for the Afflicted,* with a Preface and Notes by the Rev. P. H. Greenleaf, M.A. Boston and Cambridge. Munroe & Co.

This book is a collection of extracts from standard devotional literature, prepared for consolation in hours of sickness by a pious English lady, and it was first published after her death. It contains such passages of Thomas à Kempis the Saint; Archbishop Leighton, the St. John, Taylor, the Shakespeare of Divinity; Cecil, Wilberforce, and others; as might strengthen the heart of the pilgrim through the heaviest hours of the Dark Valley. These are now introduced to the American reader by a clergyman of Boston. The names of the authors of the various papers should have been attached to their writings. As it is, it is left to the "critical reader" to determine the authorship. Many of them are sufficiently marked to be easily distinguished, but for all there would be something more in giving the names than the mere gratification of literary curiosity. An author's more serious compositions are to be studied with his biography. Then plain words sometimes get rich meanings. We must know the man to value his sayings. Ten common words, which mean little in the mouth of A, mean everything from the lips of B. We could have wished, therefore, a few biographical references. These were doubtless familiar to the lady who made the selections. The reader to appreciate the book should, as nearly as possible, look at it from her point of view.

*The Countries of Europe described, with Anecdotes and numerous Illustrations.* By the author of "The Peep of Day," &c. Appletons.

A REPRINT of an English work by a popular

author, written with skill and tact to engage the minds of young readers. The various countries of Europe are talked about, their manners and customs described, particularly with reference to their different religions. The off-hand style is sometimes overdone. There is nothing more dangerous for the young than to treat of solemn matters too dogmatically, at the expense of reverence. Nature points in childhood to belief, reverence; the age of questioning and controversy will come in its turn.

*The Adventures of Captain Bonneville, U.S.A., in the Rocky Mountains and the Far West.* Digested from his Journal, and illustrated from various other sources. By Washington Irving. Author's revised edition. Complete in 1 vol.

It was a fortunate thing for the reputation of Captain Bonneville when his Journal of Western Adventures fell into the hands of Washington Irving. Every element of character, of the picturesque, the descriptive, the narrative, was brought at once into a clear light. Method, arrangement, were given to the story. The peculiar felicity of a single word or sentence, we may readily suppose illuminating a whole chapter; and no man is a greater master of such felicities than Irving. In such matters he is truly a looker-on who sees more of the game than the players. In the material of Bonneville there was the right stuff for a good book, in abundant pictures of the life of the Rocky Mountains,—the Indians and trappers, as they appeared before the parks and lakes were mapped out by Fremont, or Benton had announced the great highway, to be trodden out by women and children, to the Pacific. In the Adventures of those days Bonneville's book abounds; adventures, the interest of which, later and fuller observation rather increases than diminishes; for later travellers introduce changes which obliterate many of the old features, and deliver them over to history, to be read of and preserved in such chronicles as Irving's.

This is the tenth volume of Putnam's Library Edition of the works of Irving. It concludes the series of Western Adventures, numbering the Tour to the Prairies and Astoria. The next volume will embrace the Life of Goldsmith, enlarged, to include the latest researches of Prior and Forster.

*History of Maria Antoinette.* By John S. C. Abbott, with Engravings. Harper & Brothers.

No point of modern history has received more ample illustration than that which forms the subject of the new volume of Mr. Abbott's series. It has employed the pens of some of the most ingenious and brilliant writers who have ever lived, of Scott, Alison, Carlyle, Thiers, Lamartine. Less skill, therefore, than that possessed by the compiler of the present narrative would suffice to draw from them a story of engrossing interest. The author has wisely let that story carry its own reflections, thinking that the intrusion of a moral, the defect of too many popular books, "would encumber rather than enforce its teachings."

*Appleton's Railroad and Steamboat Companion.* By W. Williams. 1849.

The valuable feature of this traveller's manual now in general use, is the series of maps, twenty-eight in number, embracing the different railway routes, sections of travel, plans of cities, &c. They are clearly engraved and brought in, to illustrate the text, in a highly convenient form. The advantage of this to the tourist is obvious. He has in a neat volume readily carried in the pocket, a supply of information which in the old form would have been a serious addition to his luggage. The economy of space is managed by presenting the maps in well distributed sections.

*The World in a Pocket-Book; or, Universal Popular Statistics.* Appletons.

A COMPREHENSIVE little volume of reference, with statistical tables of commerce, progress of society; geographical and historical and scientific data. You may ascertain from it the percentage of

absolute alcohol in a mean Port or a superior Rudesheimer; learn the average of human life; the length of a river or the height of a spire; the date of a sea fight or the fall of a monarch. It is in fact quite an omnivorous little volume, and woe betide the parlor orator who comes in contact with a conversational disputant who carries about with him this pocket-book. It will be hardly possible for him to advance a statement of fact which may not be verified, or more probably refuted on the spot from the volume. We should think it valuable as a settler of bets in those disputatious places where an hour or two is sometimes spent in the assertion and contradiction of a fact which could be disposed of instantaneously by the Pocket-Book.

*Rudiments of Astronomy:* Designed for the Younger Classes in Academies and for Common Schools. By Denison Olmstead. Collins & Brother.

Author and publishers deserve some credit for the inexpensive form in which they have sent forth this well prepared introductory manual. Though clear and exact it does not sacrifice a just scientific style to the passion for over simpleness, rather than simplicity—often the defect of books prepared for the young. Its engravings are to the purpose, and the attention of the pupil is fixed by the questions at the foot of the page.

## Original Poetry.

### THE FLOWERS.

BY MRS. E. C. KINNEY.

WHERE'ER earth's soil is by the feet  
Of unseen angels trod,  
The joyous flowers spring up to greet  
These visitants of God.

They on celestial errands move  
Earth noiselessly to bless,  
 Oft stooping down in balmy love,  
The flowerets to caress.

And thus, their breath its fragrance leaves  
Among the woodland blooms,  
And breathing sense through flowers receives  
Angelical perfumes.

The scarlet or the crimson tips  
That flowery petals wear,  
May be the vermeil from the lips  
Of angels painted there.

While spirit-whispers safely lie  
Within each chalice hid,  
That mutely speak to Sorrow's eye,  
And lift its drooping lid.

And ah, that crystal, glistening clear  
Upon the tinted leaf,  
May be an angel's holy tear,  
Dropt there for human grief.

For ever hallowed then, as fair,  
Are all the blessed flowers,  
That scent with Heaven's ambrosial air  
These fading earthly bowers.

Through flowers Love finds fit utterance,  
And Friendship solace lends;  
For he that giveth FLOWERS, perchance  
An angel's message sends.

Newark, June, 1849.

THE following translation from the *Provençal* was made some time ago, but having just observed one in the "Poets and Poetry of Europe," purporting to be from Jacobi, as the author of the poem in German, we have offered it for publication in the *Literary World*. With the exception of doubling the last stanza, we have preserved the order of the original, and with it, we trust, the spirit of the piece.

LOUIS F. KLIPSTEIN.

### INSTABILITY.

YOUTH AND SHEPHERDESS.

"Shepherdess, say where the violet blows  
Loveliest 'neath the vernal sky,

Say where its sweetest fragrance throws  
To greet the wanderer passing by."

"Youth, the violet long is fled,  
All earliest-born of flowers are dead."

"Tell me where the rose displays  
Its brightest beauties to the day,  
While garlanded, in roundelays  
Sing maidens blithe and gay."

"Youth, the summer long is o'er,  
And roses bud and bloom no more."

"Tell me where's the little rill,  
Upon whose brink the violet grew,  
That I may seek its waters still,  
And long its verdant margin view."

"Youth, that rill no more is seen,  
And parched and scere's the summer green."

"Tell me where the queen of flowers  
Her leafy throne maintains,  
That I may hie me to her bowers,  
And treasure what remains."

"Youth, withhold! the storm came on,  
And bower and leafy throne are gone."

"Say where dwell the gentle swains,  
Who culled the violet fair,  
And maids who danced to joyous strains,  
With rose-embroidered hair."

"The swain's wild glow of youth is past,  
And maiden's charms will fade at last!"

"Tell me where's the minstrel grey,  
Who sang 'The Violet Bright,'  
And ever on the festive day,  
'The Rose' was his delight;  
Tell me where's the minstrel old,  
Who sang 'The Rill and Bower,'  
Of the swain and maiden always told,  
And gladsome made each hour."

"Youth, that minstrel's gone for aye,  
And we and all must pass away."

### SONNET.

On Charles Lamb leading his Sister to the Asylum.

BY THE REV. C. V. LEGRICE.

AN angel's wing is waving o'er their head,  
While they, the brother and the sister, walk,  
Nor dare, as heedless of its fanning, talk  
Of woes which are not buried with the dead.  
Hand clasped in hand they move; adown their  
check,  
From the full heart-spring, tears o'erflowing  
gush;  
Close and more close they clasp, as if to speak  
Would wake the sorrows which they seek to  
hush.  
Down to the mansion slow their footsteps bend,  
Where blank despair is soothed by mercy's  
spell,  
Pausing in momentary prayer to send  
Ere the cheered sister passes to her cell,  
Sure in the hope that yet there will be given  
Calm and sweet hours of peace—foretastes of  
Heaven.

Trereife, Cornwall, April 12.

Gentleman's Mag. for May.

### NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

THE stated monthly meeting of this Society was held on the 5th inst. at the Library Rooms in the University, Hon. LUTHER BRADISH in the Chair. There was a full attendance, and among the audience was noticed a number of distinguished strangers. Mr. BARTLETT presented to the Society, from JAMES LENOX, Esq., a set of (4) octavo volumes, bearing the title *Wassenaer Historische Verhael*, being a kind of Annual Register, issued in monthly parts, containing a detail of all the remarkable events occurring in the world from 1621 to 1632. Mr. Bartlett, in explaining the objects of the

work, took occasion to remark that he considered it one of the most, if not the most, valuable book the Society yet had on the subject of the Netherlands. The work probably cost the donor not less than fifty guineas. A vote of thanks was tendered him.

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter from a Mr. TROWBRIDGE, of Syracuse, transmitting an impression of a curious silver coin, recently ploughed up near that city. It was about the size of a shilling, and contained inscriptions similar to those of the Roman coins.

The next letter read was from B. B. MIXON, Esq., of Va., formerly editor of the Southern Literary Messenger, in relation to a change in, or an adoption of a national title. It was quite humorous throughout. Many very plausible, if not conclusive reasons were presented why the new title should be that which once gave name to almost the entire portion of the Anglo-Saxon settlements in this country, and embraced nearly all the present territory of the United States, extending even to the Pacific—VIRGINIA.

The letter was well received, and after some comments from Gen. WETMORE and Judge CAMPBELL, it was referred to a committee. Mr. BARTLETT, to whom had been referred for the purpose of a report, a letter received from Mr. TRUMBULL, of Hartford, relating to charges of witchcraft against a sister of Gov. Stuyvesant, Miss JULIA VARLET, who was imprisoned at Hartford, next entertained the Society with a very humorous paper, in which he came to the conclusion that though philosophically the sister of the Governor might have been free from the sin of witchcraft, yet according to the customs and laws of those times and the only books printed on the subject (here COTTON MATHER was quoted) it would be necessary to conclude her guilty. The paper was received with applause.

Of the books presented to the Society since the last meeting, in addition to the one above noticed, was a thick MS. 8vo. volume—the *Harmony of the Evangelical History in the Leni-Lenap, or Delaware Language*, written by the Rev. Dr. ZEISBERGER, a Moravian missionary to the Delaware Indians.

The librarian of the Society, Mr. JACOB B. MOORE, having resigned his office in consequence of being about to leave the city, Mr. GEO. H. MOORE, a former assistant librarian, was, on nomination of Rev. Dr. ROBINSON, unanimously elected his successor. This election occasioning a vacancy in the Executive Committee, the Chair, in a very becoming and complimentary manner, nominated to that office the Rev. Dr. HAWKS, who was present; at the same time, on behalf of the Society, tendering a most cordial welcome to the Dr. on his return to the city, which was responded to by the Dr. in the most felicitous manner.

The meeting then adjourned till the first Tuesday in October next.—*Courier and Eng.*

#### LITERARY MEN AT WASHINGTON.

Washington, June 24, 1849.

I PERCEIVE, with much satisfaction, evidences of a general disposition on the part of General Taylor and his Cabinet to recognise the claims of men of letters and talents to appointments for public office. This evidence is not confined to a single department, but appears to characterize the acts of the Secretaries. Among these appointments nothing could have given greater satisfaction than the appointment of Mr. Charles Fenno Hoffman to a post in the Consular bureau of the State department, an office into which he was this morning inducted. Mr. Hoffman's reputation as a

literary, political, and imaginative writer, is not, indeed, confined to this continent. Several of his works have been reprinted in England, and you must be gratified to learn that your predecessor as Editor of the Literary World, is placed in a position in which his enlarged views of men and society, and his discriminating tact and judgment must have a wide field for its practical expansion.

The retention of Mr. George Hill in the State Department, is another evidence of this feeling on the part of Mr. Clayton. Although Mr. Hill's publications and literary labors have not earned for him so wide a field of notoriety, his talents, imaginative taste, and modesty of literary pretence, are well-known to a large and discriminating circle.

Mr. Charles Lanman I find occupying the handsome position of Librarian of the War Department—a place for which he is indebted to the appreciating judgment of Mr. Crawford, the present able Secretary of War. There is something pleasant in observing this species of reward to men of letters. Mr. Lanman first attracted the notice of the public as a magazine writer, and is the author of "Summer Sketches." He has since borne ample testimony to the literary judgments pronounced in his favor by his "Mississippi Canoe Voyage," his "Saguenay" and his "Alleghany Letters." He is an acquisition to the War Office.

Mr. E. Geo. Squier, appointed Chargé des Affaires to Guatemala, is now well on his way to that central land of mysterious antiquities, which have raised the expectation of all Europe. No appointment could have been better bestowed. Mr. Squier has, in conjunction with Mr. Davis, of Chillicothe, displayed our Western Antiquities of the Ohio Valley, and some other parts of the great Mississippi Valley, in a descriptive volume patronized by the Smithsonian Institution, which is unsurpassed for its fine and accurate drawings, and clear and terse descriptions.

The Patent office has been placed in charge of Mr. Ewbank—the most celebrated hydrologist of the country.

On paying a visit to the Indian Bureau, the other morning, I was much pleased to find the distinguished traveller and ethnological writer, Henry R. Schoolcraft, Esq., snugly quartered in that department. By a special act of Congress his services have been secured in behalf of the Aborigines of the United States, concerning whom he is collecting a great variety of valuable information, which will be employed for the purpose of civilizing and increasing the happiness of the race. I found this gentleman completely surrounded with manuscript documents, and was informed that his efforts were meeting with the hearty co-operation of Mr. Ewing, the Hon. Secretary of the Home Department. There is not a man in this country, in my judgment, so well fitted for the position occupied by Mr. Schoolcraft, as that gentleman himself; and so long as the welfare of the Indians (particularly in an intellectual point of view) is intrusted to such minds, the children of the forest will have no reason to complain, and the General Government will accomplish much good. The scientific acquirements of Mr. Schoolcraft are of a high order, and I am informed that in the literary and scientific circles of this city he is a general favorite.

In speaking of the literary gentlemen of the metropolis, I ought to mention the name of Edward W. Johnston, Esq. I am not personally acquainted with him, but I am perfectly willing to echo what I hear respecting his

ability. He is the literary editor of the "Intelligencer," and thought to be one of the most accomplished scholars in the country. Within a short time past he has been intrusted with the honorable task of editing the unpublished papers of the late Alexander Hamilton, which are soon to be published in handsome style.

The appointment of the very learned and distinguished scholar, Hon. George P. Marsh, to the ministership of Constantinople, was chronicled in the papers of this morning. A better selection could not possibly have been made.

Excepting to those who have business here, Washington at the present time is particularly dull, and as I have finished mine, I shall be off in the cars which start this brief letter on its way.

R. J. G.

#### The Fine Arts.

##### AMERICAN ART-UNION.

THE Bulletin of the American Art-Union for June, furnished gratuitously to the subscribers for the present year, is one of the most interesting publications of the kind yet issued by the Society. There is a happy original article on the Dusseldorf Gallery, in the course of which several practical hints are evolved for the consideration of a portion of our native artists. The paper is understood to be from the pen of a leading member of the Council of the Society, which, we trust, will be governed in its selection of paintings by the good principles therein announced. What is said of the imperfect conceptions and careless execution of many of the artists of the day has but too many familiar examples. The Art-Union has now reached a point in its progress when greater severity of taste may be expected in its decisions. The Artists who have been aided in their first attempts, it may be anticipated, will bring now to the Institution their mature and highly finished works. The public demands this progress. The means of the Institution are ample. It is independent of fear or favor. Having done much for Artists it should now do the more for ART. In this respect it is certainly advancing. Its annual exhibitions indicate a constant improvement. It can afford to buy a picture for artistic merit, though that merit be in the first instance "caviare to the general." Its walls have something to show besides *ad captandum* works which will make their first and last appeal on the instant to the eye of uneducated or careless spectators.

We are pleased to see that the Bulletin has undertaken the reprint of Mrs. JAMESON'S "Thoughts on Art, addressed to the uninitiated," from the London Art Journal. There could be no better selection; for the writings on Art of Mrs. Jameson combine popular sympathy with artistic judgment—a rare merit.

We are now at liberty to announce authoritatively the engagement of Mr. DARLEY upon a new series of Designs for the Art-Union. The subject will be again taken from the writings of Washington Irving, and the work will be uniform with the universally well received illustrations of Rip Van Winkle, now in process of distribution. A companion series of six plates, illustrating the Legend of Sleepy Hollow, will be given to the subscribers for 1849. There is at least equal scope in this, with the subject of last year, for grouping and variety of treatment, and a work not a whit inferior in interest may be anticipated.

The present Gallery of the Art-Union numbers some one hundred and forty paintings. We propose to notice them in detail on a future

occasion. Among the recent additions are two highly interesting cabinet pictures by Professor Morse, Italian sketches "Pifferari" and "A Brigand Alarmed," which were originally in the possession of the late Dr. Hosack. These will be valuable prizes not only from their fine points as works of art, but from the historical interest which will attach to the name of Morse. They are now hanging, somewhat out of the line, on the right side of the gallery, about two-thirds of its length from the entrance. There are other additions of not less interest.

Of the pictures on exhibition not belonging to the Gallery, a Landscape by CHURCH, a delicately finished and thoroughly American composition, and WEIR's "Microscope," are deservedly attracting much attention. A new painting by Church, an Evening Scene, about to be added to the purchases of the Art-Union, will be much admired.

We glean a couple of items from the "Gossip" of the Bulletin.

#### ACADEMY OF DESIGN.

The National Academy of Design have lately purchased a quantity of land in the rear of No. 661 Broadway, and taken a lease for twenty-one years of the lot in front of them, thus securing a convenient entrance. It is said that the structure already upon the property can be easily altered to suit their purposes, and an excellent gallery and other rooms arranged, which will be much more accessible and agreeable than their present apartments.

#### H. K. BROWN.

The commission of executing the bust of the late JONATHAN GOODHUE for the merchants of New York, has been given to H. K. BROWN, who will undoubtedly produce a work entirely satisfactory to the contributors to the fund. Mr. Brown has been in Washington lately modelling a bas-relief of the President, to be used in making the dies for the medals which are struck for presentation to Indian chiefs, on occasions of treaties and other ceremonials. He has completed the design for the Art-Union Statuette, which is an admirable work. We shall give a more particular description, and perhaps a drawing of it, hereafter. The statue for the Clinton monument, designed by him, and which was mentioned in the April number of the Bulletin, will probably be executed in bronze and erected at Greenwood. Exertions are now being made to bring the subject in a proper way before the public.

[From Miss Fuller's Tribune Correspondence.]

#### AN EQUESTRIAN STATUE OF WASHINGTON.

POWERS, no less than Greenough and Crawford, would feel it a rich reward for many labors, and a happy climax to their honors, to make an equestrian statue of Washington for our country. I wish they might all do it, as each would show a different kind of excellence. To present the man on horseback, the wise centaur, the tamer of horses, may well be deemed a highest achievement of modern as it was of ancient art. The study of the anatomy and action of the horse, so rich in suggestions, is naturally most desirable to the artist; happy he who, obliged by the brevity of life and the limitations of fortune to make his studies conform to his "orders," finds himself justified by a national behest in entering on this department.

At home one gets callous about the character of Washington, from a long experience of the 4th of July bombast in his praise. But seeing the struggles of other nations, and the deficiencies of the leaders who try to sustain

them, the heart is again stimulated and puts forth buds of praise. One appreciates the wonderful combination of events and influences that gave our independence so healthy a birth, and the almost miraculous merits of the men who tended its first motions. In the combination of excellences needed at such a period with the purity and modesty which dignify the private man in the humblest station, Washington as yet stands alone. No country has ever had such a good future; no other is so happy as to have a pattern of spotless worth which will remain in her latest day venerable as now.

Surely then that form should be immortalized in material solid as its fame; and, happily for the artist, that form was of natural beauty and dignity, and he who places him on horseback simply represents his habitual existence. Everything concurs to make an equestrian statue of Washington desirable.

#### MR. CRAWFORD'S DESIGN.

Mr. CRAWFORD has made a design which he takes with him to America, and which, I hope, will be generally seen. He has represented Washington in his actual dress; a figure of Fame, winged, presents the laurel and civic wreath; his gesture declines them; he seems to say, "For me the deed is enough—I need no badge, no outward token in reward."

This group has no insipid allegorical air, as might be supposed; and its composition is very graceful, simple, and harmonious. The costume is very happily managed. The angel figure is draped, and with the Liberty cap, which, as a badge both of ancient and modern times, seems to connect the two figures, and in an artistic point of view balances well the cocked hat; there is a similar harmony between the angel's wings and the extremities of the horse. The action of the winged figure induces a natural and spirited action of the horse and rider. I thought of Goethe's remark, that a fine work of art will always have, at a distance, where its details cannot be discerned, a beautiful effect, as of architectural ornament, and that this excellence the groups of Raphael share with the antique. He would have been pleased with the beautiful balance of forms in this group, with the freedom with which light and air play in and out, the management of the whole being clear and satisfactory at the first glance. But one should go into a great number of studios, as you can in Rome or Florence, and see the abundance of heavy and inharmonious designs to appreciate the merits of this; anything really good seems so simple and so a matter of course to the unpractised observer.

Some say the Americans will not want a group, but just the fact; the portrait of Washington riding straight forward like Marcus Aurelius, or making an address, or lifting his sword. I do not know about that—it is matter of feeling. This winged figure not only gives a poetic sense to the group, but a natural support and occasion for action to the horse and rider. Uncle Sam must send Major Downing to look at it, and then, if he wants other designs, let him establish a concurrence, as I have said, and choose what is best. I am not particularly attached to Mr. Greenough, Mr. Powers, or Mr. Crawford. I admire various excellences in the works of each, and should be glad if each received an order for an equestrian statue. Nor is there any reason why they should not. There is money enough in the country, and the more good things there are for the people to see freely in open daylight the better. That makes artists germinate.

#### MUSIC.

Among the interesting events in the musical annals of our busy city, ought to be noticed the private parties given occasionally at the house of Mr. Pirsson, the well-known piano manufacturer, and amateur of the contra-bass. These are simply evenings when a few of our best artists are accustomed to assemble and rehearse for their own recreation, and those of a few friends who are learned or patient enough to listen. To musical readers at a distance, it is sometimes gratifying to read the mere names of pieces and performers, thus:—

Last Tuesday evening were given at Mr. Pirsson's—1st. A Quintet of Bertini, Messrs. Hoffman, Boucher, Keyzer, Mendelssohn, Hegeland: 2d. Spohr's Quintet in C minor, Messrs. Timm, Burke, Isvelt, Mendelssohn, and Hegeland: Trio from Donizetti, Messrs. Distin, accompanied by Mr. Willy; prelude from Mendelssohn and song, Mr. Hutton; song and chorus, Mr. Hilton; solo capriccio, and Adagio Preghiero, Mr. Burke; an old English song, Mr. Hutton. The audience included a few of the first amateurs, vocal and instrumental, in the United States; or to speak "within doors," the civilized world—not to mention sundry other listeners, whose names need not be published. Those musical students who may be almost ready to despair on account of the low state of the art among us,—the general prevalence, especially, of the Ethiopian,—may take heart again from knowing that there are such meetings as this even in our crowded and busy city.

#### MUSICAL PUBLICATIONS.

"Tribut à l'Amerique." Par Henri Herz, Grand Notturmo, and Polka de Concert. New York: Firth, Pond & Co., 1 Franklin Square.

THE "Tribut à l'Amerique" is another of the series of Henri Herz's compositions, at present issued by Firth and Pond, and of which we have before noticed several pieces, "The Last Rose of Summer," "Impromptu Burlesque on Christy's Melodies," &c. &c. Like all these specimens, this Notturmo and Polka were played by M. Herz at his concerts during the past winter, in this city. The Notturmo is, as the name implies, a graceful, slow movement, with a few bars of introduction. Though in a difficult key, it is not beyond the reach of a good player, requiring neatness in the execution, expression in the melody, and a good, steady shake to produce its due effect. As a composition it bears evidence of the author's powers as a sound musician, and when played by his own unerring fingers cannot be forgotten. The Polka which follows, is a more lively effort, and perhaps is difficult to render properly. There are some not very easy octave passages, but these will be studied for the sake of the popular movement. This excellent specimen of the series cannot fail to become a favorite.

#### What is Talked About.

—We did not of course publish the absurd statement alluded to in the following article from the *Courier*, but we saw it with regret reprinted in the *Boston Transcript*. The hasty, ill-judged, and unwarrantable notices of the movements and sayings of individuals which appear constantly in the newspapers, should awaken the attention of editors to some provision for a remedy. News certainly is a very desirable thing, but

there should be some limit to the zeal of penny-a-liners and the garrulity of correspondents. There have been lately several very painful instances of want of consideration in the unnecessary and harsh introduction to the public of the private affairs of individuals. A man's opinions, we presume, are to be held by every gentleman his own private property, till he chooses of his own free will to give them to the public. But the case we alluded to above, is grosser than a liberty of this kind: it is a positive misrepresentation of an injurious character. Our readers who are familiar with the character of Professor Tayler Lewis need no explanation of a charge of this kind; but as a general warning against the encouragement of a growing evil we put the whole case on record as given by the *Courier*:

"We ask the attention of the Boston *Transcript*, the New Bedford *Mercury*, and other papers which may have published the statement alluded to in the following letter, to the very explicit and peremptory denial of its truth by Professor Lewis:—

To the Editors of the *Courier & Enquirer*:

"My attention has just been called to the following paragraph from a Boston paper:—

"*Government of Children.*—The *Golden Rule*, a weekly paper published in New York, gives the following account of a conversation with Professor Tayler Lewis, Professor of Greek in the New York University:

"The Professor insists that in the Government of children, we should go back to the old Hebrew customs, and punish filial disobedience with death. According to him the world has made no advancement on the past, but has rather retrograded; that the liberality, generosity, and mercy which have been blended with the laws and institutions of modern civilization, are rather to be condemned than approved; and that the sanguinary and barbarous laws of the ancient world are precisely what degenerate society needs to-day. 'Let one child,' said the Professor, 'who disobeys his parents be punished with death by our laws, and what a salutary effect would be produced! What terror would it strike through the hearts of disobedient children, and with how much greater ease would the filial government be carried on!'

'If this account be true there must be something very unsound in the head or heart of Professor Tayler Lewis; probably in both.'

"Although very reluctant to appear in the newspapers in connexion with any such matter as this, I cannot consent to let the above pass without notice. It seems to have been for some time going the rounds of the press, and is certainly calculated to do me injury. I would, therefore, give it the most positive and unqualified denial. It is false in the letter, and false in the spirit. I would say, moreover, that no conversation has been ever held by me, or with me, nor any position maintained by me at any time, from which any honest man could have felt authorized in making such a statement, even by way of inference. It furnishes, however, an admirable illustration of the truthfulness, honesty, and tender mercies of some of those gentlemen who would claim to themselves all the philanthropy and humanity of the age.

"Since my attention was turned to the matter, I have called at the office of the *Golden Rule*,—the paper in which it first originated. The editor is absent; but the publishers have promised to disavow the article in the most public and satisfactory manner.

"Yours, &c.,

"TAYLER LEWIS."

—THACKERAY, the author of "Vanity

Fair," has paid a very handsome compliment to DICKENS by introducing David Copperfield into a capital series of papers, "Mr. Brown's letters to a young man about town," which he is now publishing in *Punch*. Thackeray, whose pencil has as much character as his pen, sketches a gentleman asleep on a sofa at his club with a copy of "Pendennis" by his side—the tribute to Dickens follows:—"Have you read 'David Copperfield,' by the way? How beautiful it is—how charmingly fresh and simple! In those admirable touches of tender humor—and I should call humor, Bob, a mixture of love and wit—who can equal this great genius?—There are little words and phrases in his books which are like personal benefits to the reader. What a place it is to hold in the affections of men! What an awful responsibility hanging over a writer! What man holding such a place, and knowing that his words go forth to vast congregations of mankind—to grown folks—to their children, and perhaps to their children's children—but must think of his calling with a solemn and humble heart? May love and truth guide such a man always! It is an awful prayer; may Heaven further its fulfilment!"

—We cannot more appropriately record the death of a lamented soldier of the Republic, which has been attended by a universal expression of sympathy, than in the words of the General order of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati, dated May 30, and signed by the President, Gen. Anthony Lamb—"It has become the painful duty of the President to announce to the members of the Society, the death, by Asiatic Cholera, of Maj. Gen. WORTH, of the U. S. Army (an honorary member of our Society), at San Antonio de Bexar, Texas, in the 56th year of his age, on the 7th instant.

"Gen. Worth was a native of Hudson, in this State. He was engaged in mercantile business in the city of Albany at the commencement of the war with Great Britain, in 1812, but with the true spirit of a soldier, he was desirous of entering the army, not being satisfied with the dull pursuits of civil life while his country was engaged in war. He was then but 18 years of age. On an application by a friend, he was appointed by the late Maj. Gen. Morgan Lewis, his private secretary, and went with him to the Niagara frontier. Gen. Lewis, finding him more inclined to a military life than to the one in which he had been previously engaged, recommended him to Gen. Scott, who obtained for him a Lieutenantcy in the 23d Regiment of Infantry in the U. S. Army, and appointed him his Aide-de-Camp. He was with the General at the battles of Chippewa and Niagara Falls, in the latter of which he was severely wounded by a grape-shot. He was engaged in the Florida war, and was an active and efficient officer in the late war with Mexico; he was at the storming of Monterey and Perote; he was at the battles of Sierra Gordo, Puebla, San Augustin, Churubusco, Chapultepec, Molino del Rey, and at the walls of the city of Mexico, in all of which he proved himself to be a bold, brave, and intrepid soldier; and he has gone down to the grave with a wreath of imperishable honors on his brow."

—At the last session of the Massachusetts Legislature, a report was presented by the Committee on Education, detailing the progress of the International Exchanges with France by the agency of M. Vattemare. The system of these exchanges, which may be

extended to the composition of large libraries, is very simple. An appropriation is made of a certain number of copies of maps, public documents, &c., which are transmitted to various institutions, libraries, &c., in Paris, the sum of three hundred dollars, for the state of Massachusetts, for instance, defraying the expenses of the agency. Twelve states have thus appropriated in all \$3000, and Congress \$2000. M. Vattemare returns from Paris the valuable statistical and other documents constantly proceeding from the French government and learned societies. The benefits of this exchange are obvious every way. Information is diffused through Europe of American institutions and affairs; in return, we receive the experience of the old world, where science has reduced every state and municipal matter to the strictest system. For our cities and towns the value of the documents published in Europe relating to the sanitary regulations, police, &c., &c., is of the first importance. The system is easily extended to libraries, other than those of the state and the cities. An abstract of the report to which we have alluded in the *Boston Daily Advertiser* furnishes us with the summary of the exchanges of the last year. "The books and documents transmitted by France to the United States consisted of 650 volumes of complete works, or from 1400 to 1500 volumes, including duplicates; besides a great number of maps, lithographs, models, &c. There were presented by the United States to France 1150 volumes, exclusive of duplicates, which swelled the number to about 1800. The institutions and establishments which participated in this enterprise were, on the part of France, the National Assembly, all the Ministries, the State Council, the National Library, the Academy of Sciences and that of Moral and Political Sciences, the Administration of the Customs, the Museum of Natural History, the Scientific Mining Academy, the Societies of Encouragement of Agriculture and Horticulture, the Geological Society, the Conservatory of Arts, and the cities of Paris, Rouen and Nantes. On the part of the United States the contributors were Congress, the Executive Departments at Washington, the Patent Office, the Military Academy at West Point, all the Atlantic States except Connecticut, with Ohio, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas; the cities of Boston, New York, Albany, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, Charleston, and Portland; the Universities of Cambridge and Virginia, the College of Georgetown, the Historical and Natural History Societies of Boston, Worcester, New York, and Baltimore, and the Observatories of Washington and Cincinnati."

—Another report of a committee of the Massachusetts Legislature exhibits the sums paid for the support of the state library, which, since its foundation in 1826, amount to but three hundred dollars per annum, with some extra appropriation, including \$900, to M. Vattemare's agency. The state of New York has expended during the last six years, \$27,600 on its library at Albany, and one of the acts of the last Legislature was to increase the salary of its librarian. The suggestions as to the principal objects of a State Library are well put in the report, the books relating to the state coming first, to the general government and the other states, second, to Great Britain, third; next to France and other nations, "according to the closeness of their connexion with America, and American improvements." The state papers are clas-

sified into Legislative Journals and official papers of the several states and the United States; similar documents of the cities, debates of the Legislatures, debates of conventions, &c., the constitutions, &c., Reports of public charities, institutions, &c., statute law and jurisprudence follow. Afterwards special state and other histories, political economy in its most comprehensive form, books of reference, &c. A good recommendation is that of binding state documents in two series, one by the subject, the other chronologically. The Massachusetts Library now numbers but about 700 volumes.

### Glimpses of New Books.

#### SHARKS AND OTHER SEA FELLOWS.

(From Melville's *New Romance of Mardi*.)

At intervals in our lonely voyage, there were sights which diversified the scene; especially when the constellation Pisces was in the ascendant.

It's famous botanizing, they say, in Arkansas' boundless prairies; I commend the student of Ichthyology to an open boat, and the ocean moors of the Pacific. As your craft glides along, what strange monsters float by. Elsewhere, was never seen their like. And nowhere are they found in the books of the naturalists.

Though America be discovered, the Cathays of the deep are unknown. And whoso crosses the Pacific might have read lessons to Buffon. The sea-serpent is not a fable; and in the sea that snake is but a garden worm. There are more wonders than the wonders rejected, and more sights unrevealed than you or I ever dreamt of. Moles and bats alone should be sceptics; and the only true infidelity is for a live man to vote himself dead. Be Sir Thomas Brown our ensample; who, while exploding "Vulgar Errors," heartily hugged all the mysteries in the Pentateuch.

But look! fathoms down in the sea; where ever saw you a phantom like that? An enormous crescent with antlers like a reindeer, and a Delta of mouths. Slowly it sinks, and is seen no more.

Doctor Faust saw the devil; but you have seen the "Devil Fish."

Look again! Here comes another. Jarl calls it a Bone Shark. Full as large as a whale, it is spotted like a leopard; and tusk-like teeth overlap its jaws like those of the walrus. To seamen, nothing strikes more terror than the near vicinity of a creature like this. Great ships steer out of its path. And well they may; since the good craft Essex, and others, have been sunk by sea-monsters, as the alligator thrusts his horny snout through a Caribbean canoe.

Ever present to us, was the apprehension of some sudden disaster from the extraordinary zoological specimens we almost hourly passed.

For the sharks, we saw them, not by units, nor by tens, nor by hundreds; but by thousands and by myriads. Trust me, there are more sharks in the sea than mortals on land.

And of these prolific fish there are full as many species as of dogs. But by the German naturalists Müller and Henle, who, in christening the sharks, have bestowed upon them the most heathenish names, they are classed under one family; which family, according to Müller, king-at-arms, is an undoubted branch of the ancient and famous tribe of the Chondropterygii.

To begin. There is the ordinary Brown Shark, or sea-attorney, so called by sailors; a

grasping, rapacious varlet, that in spite of the hard knocks received from it, often snapped viciously at our steering oar. At times, these gentry swim in herds; especially about the remains of a slaughtered whale. They are the vultures of the deep.

Then we often encountered the dandy Blue Shark, a long, taper, and mighty genteel looking fellow, with a slender waist, like a Bond street beau, and the whitest tiers of teeth imaginable. This dainty spark invariably lounged by with careless fin and an indolent tail. But he looked infernally heartless.

How his cold-blooded, gentlemanly air, contrasted with the rude savage swagger of the Tiger Shark; a round, portly gourmand: with distended mouth and collapsed conscience, swimming about seeking whom he might devour. These gluttons are the scavengers of navies, following ships in the South Seas, picking up odds and ends of garbage, and sometimes a tit-bit, a stray sailor. No wonder, then, that sailors denounce them. In substance, Jarl once assured me, that under any temporary misfortune, it was one of his sweetest consolations to remember, that in his day, he had murdered, not killed, shoals of Tiger Sharks.

Yet this is all wrong. As well hate a seraph as a shark. Both were made by the same hand. And that sharks are lovable, witness their domestic endearments. No Fury so ferocious, as not to have some amiable side. In the wild wilderness, a leopard-mother caresses her cub, as Hagar did Ishmael; or a queen of France the dauphin. We know not what we do when we hate. And I have the word of my gentlemanly friend Stanhope for it; that he who declared he loved a good hater, was but a respectable sort of Hottentot, at best. No very genteel epithet this, though coming from the gentlest of men. But when the digger of dictionaries said that saying of his, he was assuredly not much of a Christian. However, it is hard for one given up to constitutional hypos like him, to be filled with the milk and meekness of the gospels. Yet, with deference, I deny that my old uncle Johnson really believed in the sentiment ascribed to him. Love a hater, indeed! Who smacks his lips over gall? Now hate is a thankless thing. So let us only hate hatred; and once give love play, we will fall in love with an unicorn. Ah! the easiest way is the best; and to hate, a man must work hard. Love is a delight; but hate a torment. And haters are thumbscrews, Scotch boots, and Spanish inquisitions to themselves. In five words—would they were a Siamese diphthong—he who hates is a fool.

For several days our Chamois was followed by two of these aforesaid Tiger Sharks. A brace of confidential inseparables, jogging along in our wake, side by side, like a couple of highwaymen, biding their time till you come to the crossroads. But giving it up at last, for a bootless errand, they dropped further and further astern, until completely out of sight. Much to the Skyeman's chagrin; who long stood in the stern, lance poised for a dart.

But of all sharks, save me from the ghastly White Shark. For though we should hate naught, yet some dislikes are spontaneous; and disliking is not hating. And never yet could I bring myself to be loving, or even so-cieable, with a White Shark. He is not the sort of creature to enlist young affections.

This ghost of a fish is not often encountered, and shows plainer by night than by day.

Timon-like, he always swims by himself; gliding along just under the surface, revealing a long, vague shape, of a milky hue; with glimpses now and then of his bottomless white pit of teeth. No need of a dentist hath he. Seen at night, stealing along like a spirit in the water, with horrific serenity of aspect, the White Shark sent many a thrill to us twain in the Chamois.

By day, and in the profoundest calms, oft were we startled by the ponderous sigh of the grampus, as lazily rising to the surface, he fetched a long breath after napping below.

And time and again we watched the darting albicore, the fish with the chain-plate armor and golden scales; the Nimrod of the seas, to whom so many flying fish fall a prey. Flying from their pursuers, many of them flew into our boat. But invariably they died from the shock. No nursing could restore them. One of their wings I removed, spreading it out to dry under a weight. In two days' time the thin membrane, all over tracings like those of a leaf, was transparent as isinglass, and tinted with brilliant hues, like those of a changing silk.

Almost every day we spied black Fish; coal-black and glossy. They seemed to swim by revolving round and round in the water, like a wheel; their dorsal fins, every now and then shooting into view, like spokes.

Of a somewhat similar species, but smaller, and clipper-built about the nose, were the Algerines; so called, probably, from their corsair propensities; waylaying peaceful fish on the high seas, and plundering them of body and soul at a gulp. Atrocious Turks! a crusade should be preached against them.

Besides all these, we encountered Killers and Thrashers, by far the most spirited and "spunky" of the finny tribes. Though little larger than a porpoise, a band of them think nothing of assailing leviathan himself. They bait the monster, as dogs a bull. The Killers seizing the Right whale by his immense sulky lower lip, and the Thrashers fastening on to his back, and beating him with their sinewy tails. Often they come off conquerors, worrying the enemy to death. Though, sooth to say, if leviathan gets but one sweep at them with his terrible tail, they go flying into the air, as if tossed from Taurus' horn.

This sight we beheld. Had old Wouvermans, who once painted a bull-bait, been along with us, a rare chance, that, for his pencil. And Gudin or Isabey might have thrown the blue rolling sea into the picture. Lastly, one of Claude's setting summer suns would have glorified the whole. Oh, believe me, God's creatures fighting, fin for fin, a thousand miles from land, and with the round horizon for an arena, is no ignoble subject for a masterpiece.

Such are a few of the sights of the great South Sea. But there is no telling all. The Pacific is populous as China.

#### "BOOKS ARE A REAL WORLD."

"Books, Venus, books."—It is those that teach us to refine on our pleasures when young, and which, having so taught us, enable us to recall them with satisfaction when old. For let the half-witted say what they will of delusions, no thorough reader ever ceased to believe in his books, whatever doubts they might have taught him by the way. They are pleasures too palpable and habitual for him to deny. They contain his young dreams and his old discoveries; all that he has lost,

as well as all that he has gained; and, as he is no surer of the gain than of the loss, except in proportion to the strength of his perceptions, the dreams, in being renewed, become truths again. He is again in communion with the past; again interested in its adventures, grieving with its griefs, laughing with its merriment, forgetting the very chair and room he is sitting in. Who, in the mysterious operation of things, shall dare to assert in what unreal corner of time and space that man's mind is; or what better proof he has of the existence of the poor goods and chattels about him, which at that moment (to him) are non-existent? "Oh!" people say, "but he wakes up, and sees them there." Well, he woke down then, and saw the rest. What we distinguish into dreams and realities, are in both cases but representatives of impressions. Who shall know what difference there is in them at all, save that of degree, till some higher state of existence help us to a criterion? For our part, such real things to us are books, that, by habit and perception made the difference between real and unreal, we may say that we more frequently wake out of common life to them, than out of them to common life. Yet we do not find the life the less real. We only feel books to be a constituent part of it—a world, as the poet says,

"Round which, with tendrils strong as flesh and blood,  
Our pastime and our happiness may grow."

What do readers care for "existing things" (except when Ireland is mentioned or a child is grieving) compared with poetry and romance? What for Bonaparte and his pretences, compared with the honest jealousy of "Orlando," or the cakes of Alfred? What for all the parsons in the world (except Pius IX. or some Welsh curate) compared with Parson Adams or the Vicar of Wakefield? What men (generally speaking) are they so sure of? are so intimate with? can describe, quote, and talk of to one another with so much certainty of a mutual interest? And yet, when readers wake up to that other dream of life, called real life (and we do not mean to deny its palpability), they do not find their enjoyment of it diminished. It is increased—increased by the contrast—by the variety—by the call upon them to show the faith which books have originally given them in all true and good things, and which books, in spite of contradiction and disappointment, have constantly maintained. Mankind are the creatures of books, as well as of other circumstances; and such they externally remain; proofs that the race is a noble and believing race, and capable of whatever books can stimulate.—*Leigh Hunt's Book for a Corner.*

#### CHARMING LE SAGE.

GIL BLAS is a book which makes a great impression in youth with particular passages; becomes thoroughly appreciated only by the maturest knowledge; and remains one of the greatest of favorites with old people who are wise and good-natured. Everybody knows the Robber's Cave, the beggar who asks alms with a loaded musket, the archbishop who invited a candor which he could not bear, the dramatic surprise and exquisite lesson of the story transcribed into the present volume; and perhaps we all have a general, entertaining recollection of authors, and actresses, and great men. But the hundreds of delicate strokes at every turn, the quiet, arch reference (never failing) to the most hidden sources of action and nicest evidences of character, require an experienced taste and

discernment to do them justice. When they obtain this, they complete the charm of the reader by flattering his understanding. The hero (strange critical term for individuals the most unheroical!) is justly popular with all the world, because he resembles them in their mixture of sense and nonsense, craft and credulity, selfishness and good qualities. We have a sneaking regard for him on our weak side; while we flatter ourselves we should surpass him on the strong. Then how pleasant the hypocrisy of the false hermit Lamela, reconciled to us by his animal spirits; how consolatory (if extension of evil can console) the bile and melancholy of the great minister, the count-duke, who always sees a spectre before him; and how charming, as completing the round of its universality, the alternations from town to country, from solitudes to courts, and the settlement of the once simple Gil Blas, now Signior de Santillane, in his comfortable farm at Lirias, over the door of which was to be written a farewell to vicissitude:—

Invenit portum. Spes et Fortuna, valet.  
Sat me lusiisti: ludite nunc alios.

My port is found. Farewell, ye freaks of chance:  
The dance ye led me, now let others dance.

Le Sage is accused, like Molière, of having stolen all his good things from Spain. Do not believe it. Rest assured, that whatever he stole he turned to the choicest account with his own genius; otherwise the Spaniards would have got the fame for his works, and not he. Nobody stole Cervantes. Le Sage was a good, quiet man, very deaf, who lived in a small house at Boulogne with a bit of trellised garden at the back, in which he used to walk up and down while he composed. He had a son, a celebrated actor, who came to live with him; and these two were as fast friends as they were honest and pleasant men. But if everybody knows the adventure of Gil Blas with the Parasite, why, it may be asked, repeat it? For the reason given in the preface,—because there are passages in books which readers love to see repeated, for the very sake of their intimacy with them. It is with fine passages in books as with songs. Some we like, because they are good and new; and some because they are very good indeed, and old acquaintances. Besides, there are hundreds of readers who only just recollect them well enough to desire to know them better.—*Ibid.*

#### Publishers' Circular.

##### NEW VOLUME OF THE LITERARY WORLD.

On the Seventh of July will be commenced the 5th volume of the Literary World. Two volumes of the Literary World are now published per annum, of between five hundred and six hundred pages each.

In the new volume the various departments characteristic of the Journal, and the sources of its present wide-spread support, will be regularly maintained. Particular attention will be given as heretofore to the early presentation of New Books of interest, in the publication of Extracts and Passages in Advance; to the elaborate Review of Works important from their facts or opinions; to an extensive Record of all New Publications; to the Reports of Societies; Literary Correspondence and Intelligence. To these will be added Series of Original Papers; Essays on the Arts, Sketches of Society, of Tra-

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#### LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

ROBERT CARTER & BROTHERS have just issued, from advanced sheets, Loyola and Jesuitism in its Rudiments, by Isaac Taylor, author of the "Natural History of Enthusiasm," &c. The same house have in press, also from an advanced copy, The Puritans in England, and the Pilgrim Fathers, by Prof. Stowell. 1 vol. 8vo.

D. APPLETON & Co. will immediately publish—The Child's First History of Rome, by Miss Sewell, author of "Amy Herbert," etc. Lady Alice, or the New Una; a Novel. The Story of a Genius; or, Cola Monti. A Layman's Lesson to a Lord Bishop on Sacerdotal Powers; or, the Necessity of Confession, Penance, and Absolution: reprinted from the second (London, 1713) edition, by Non Nemo. Practical, Short, and Direct Method of Calculating the Logarithm of any given Number, and the Number corresponding to any given Logarithm, by Oliver Byrne. Class-Book of Zoology, by Prof. J. B. Jaeger. Ollendorff's Elementary French Grammar, edited by Professor Greene of Brown University. Velazquez's Easy Introduction to Spanish Conversation.

The Library of O'CONNELL has been brought to auction at Dublin. The books were with few exceptions of no rare value. There were a few rare volumes of Divinity, some scarce tracts and political pamphlets. The prices were low. A very splendid copy of the "Mores Catholici," in ten volumes, was purchased by Mr. Dolman, the publisher, for £4. Dens' Theologia, seven volumes, went for twelve shillings. The well-known and splendid work, "Loyola's Spiritual Exercises" (Latin), a presentation copy to the Liberator, was bought by Mr. Dolman for 5s. A fine edition of the Douay Bible, five volumes, was purchased by Mr. Joseph Mahon, of Phibsborough, for £2 6s.

The work of the French Minister, M. Poussin, on the United States, noticed in our last number, is for sale by Bartlett & Welford, 7 Astor House.

**THE VATICAN LIBRARY.**—The Vatican Library, instead of being despoiled of its MSS. (which under the former régime would have been no perceptible calamity, as access to them was next to impossible), is now really accessible to the serious student, and no ridiculous obstructions are now made to the prosecution of learned inquiries. Formerly, the only part of the collection which the reverend librarians allowed to be seen were the love letters of Anna Boleyn, and Henry's famous book on the "Seven Sacraments," a presentation copy to Leo X. There is some chance of the Vatican MSS. being now really made to serve the cause of religion and science, instead of mouldering to decay as hitherto.—*Roman Correspondent of the Daily News.*

Horace Twiss, author of the *Life of Lord Eldon*, died suddenly on the 4th inst., under most painful circumstances. The *London Sun* says:—

"Mr. Twiss, as a member and proprietor of the Rock Life Assurance Company, in which he took great interest, was at the annual meeting held at Radley's Hotel, Bridge street, Blackfriars, in the act of addressing the chairman upon the general management of the society, and although he did not appear to be in the least excited, he was seen to falter and gradually sink, and ultimately to fall down in his chair. Several of his friends present removed him from the room, but in the course of their so doing he expired without a struggle. Mr. Farr and other medical gentlemen were sent for, but, on their arrival, it was found that their assistance was of no avail.

"It was stated that Mr. Twiss had, for a long time, been impressed with the idea that he should, one day or other, die suddenly, as he labored under the frightful disease of ossification of the heart, and, strange to say, within two hours of his death, repeated the same fact.

"Mr. Twiss was, in addition to his justly and well-received '*Life of the late Lord Eldon*,' the author of many valuable contributions to the quarterly and other magazines. His body will be removed to his own residence, it being considered by the authorities that an inquest was unnecessary."

Thomas Starkie, an eminent English lawyer, died on the 15th April last. This gentleman was called to the bar in 1810, and his industry and learning led him into an extensive and lucrative practice. Mr. Starkie was the Downing Professor at Cambridge, and afterwards a county judge at Islington. He was well known to our lawyers by his Reports, his Works on Slander, on Criminal Pleading, and on the Law of Evidence.

**DEATH OF MR. THOMAS RODD.**—Literature has sustained a loss—greater than many would imagine—in the sudden death of Mr. Thomas Rodd, the second-hand bookseller of Great Newport street. Mr. T. Rodd was seized quite suddenly with paralysis while transacting business with the officers of the Museum on the morning of Monday last. He was conveyed home,—and died on Monday night. He bore a high character for his honorable and straightforward dealings; and his professional knowledge of books was very extensive,—embracing all branches, both of literature and of science, and not confined to mere title-pages. Most of those who have had occasion to make any extensive research, have been indebted to Mr. Rodd's activity, and to the power of suggestion which his bibliographical knowledge gave,—and all who have incurred such obligation will now feel his loss. Mr. Rodd was long the trusted agent of the Trustees of the British Museum and of the Bodleian at Oxford:—and he was the means on many occasions of obtaining great rarities for both collections at prices below what private collectors would have given for the same volumes.—*London Athenæum.*

The daily papers report the death of Major Shadwell Clerke—long the editor of the *United*

*Service Journal*—and well known amongst scientific men for the active share which he took in the business of the Geographical and Geological Societies, and in that of the British Association.

We have to announce also the death of Dr. Stephen Endlicher, Professor of Botany at Vienna. He was well known in Europe, both as a botanist and as an accomplished philologist,—and held the situation of Librarian to the Imperial Library at Vienna. One of his earliest contributions to botanical science was his "*Flora Posoniensis*," which was published in 1831. The plants were arranged in this "*Flora*" according to a natural system; and throughout the whole of his botanical career Professor Endlicher has paid great attention to the systematic arrangement of the vegetable kingdom. In 1836, he published his great work entitled "*Genera Plantarum, secundum ordines naturales disposita*." At the time when it was published, it was undoubtedly the most important work on systematic botany since the "*Genera Plantarum*" of Jussieu. In this work, he proposed an arrangement of the vegetable kingdom which has had a considerable influence on more recent systems. He also published several works containing descriptions and drawings of new plants. Those brought from Peru and Mexico by Poeppig were described by Endlicher. In 1837, he commenced the publication of a work containing descriptions and drawings of new species of plants, under the title *Atacta Botanica*. The drawings for this work were from the pencil of the celebrated Ferdinand Bauer, who died in Vienna in 1826,—and who, like his brother Francis in England, left behind him a great number of drawings of plants such as had never been equalled during their lives, and have scarcely been surpassed since. Endlicher published a *Flora of Norfolk Island* in 1833; consisting of descriptions of plants which were collected by Ferdinand Bauer in 1804 and 1805. In addition to these systematic works, in conjunction with Unger, Endlicher published a work on structural and physiological botany. This work is interesting as containing a statement of its author's views of structure upon which his systematic arrangements are founded; but it was not in this department that Endlicher obtained his reputation as a botanist. It was reported that the death of Endlicher was caused by his own hand; but this appears to be untrue.—*London Athenæum.*

#### BOOKS PUBLISHED IN ENGLAND, FROM 28TH APRIL TO 14TH MAY.

Adalbert (Prince, of Prussia).—*Travels in South of Europe and in Brazil.* Trans. 2 vols. 8vo. pp. 732, cl. 24s. Akerman (J. Y.).—*Tradesmen's Tokens current in London, between 1648-1673.* 8vo. pp. 374, pl. cl. 25s. Barrett (A.).—*Christ in the Storm.* Fcp. 8vo. pp. 278, cl. 4s. Borfield (B.).—*Notes on the Cathedral Libraries of England.* 8vo. pp. 542, cl. 25s. Bunyan (John).—*Pilgrim's Progress, illust. by Wm. Harvey.* Pt. 1. 8vo. 1s. Craig (J.).—*New Dictionary of the English Language.* Vol. 2. roy. 8vo. pp. 1164, cl. 21s. Dixon (J.).—*Methodism in America.* 12mo. pp. 510, cl. 6s. Dollman (F. T.).—*Ancient Pulpits in England.* 4to. pp. 32, 30 pl. cl. £2 2s. Dry Leaves from Young Egypt. 8vo. pp. 254, cl. 7s. 6d. Fergusson (J.).—*Essay on a Proposed New System of Fortification.* 8vo. pp. 178, cloth, 12s. 6d. Halliwell (J. O.).—*Popular Rhymes and Nursery Tales.* 12mo. pp. 288, cloth, 4s. 6d. Harper (N. T.).—*Steps to the Cross, 9 Sermons.* 12mo. pp. 158, cl. 3s. 6d. Holbein (H.).—*Dance of Death.* 8vo. cl. pp. 150 54 pl. cl. 9s. Horner (F.).—*Memoirs.* 12mo. pp. 390, cl. 2s. 6d. Knox (A.).—*Inquiry into Actual State of our Knowledge of Cholera.* 8vo. pp. 268, cl. 5s. 6d. Layard (A. H.).—*Monuments of Nineveh.* Fol. pp. 22, 100 pl. £10. *Lottery of Life, by Mrs. Trollope.* 3 v. 8vo. Maxims of Sir Morgan O'Dogherty, Bart. from Blackwood. 18mo. pp. 138, cl. 2s. Newman (F. W.).—*The Soul.* 8vo. pp. 234, cl. 6s. Pike (V.).—*The Minister's Lay, and other Poems.* 18mo. pp. 112, cl. 2s. 6d. Protestant Leader, by Eugene Sue. 3 v. 8vo. pp. 936, bds. 31s. 6d. Reprints of Rare Tracts and MSS. illus. of History of the Northern Counties. 7 vols. 8vo. £7, 7s. (Newcastle). Sermon, by J. Scott. Seven Tales from Seven Authors. 12mo. pp. 548, 7s. Slave Trade.—*Plan for Immediate Extinction of.* 8vo. pp. 36, swd. 1s. Stolberg (Count).—*Little Book of the Love of God—trans.* 24mo. pp. 230, cl. 2s. Vaughan (R.).—*The Age and Christianity.* 8vo. pp. 336, cl. 6s. Wellesley (W.).—*De la France contemporaine, réponse à M. Guizot.* 8vo. pp. 266, cl. 6s. West (R. A.).—*Sketches of Wesleyan Preachers.* 12mo. pp. 392, cloth, 3s. Wilson (J.).—*Evangelization of India.* 12mo. (Edub.) pp. 502, cl. 6s.

**LAW REPORTS.**—*Chancery* (M'Naughten and Gordon). Vol. 1, Pt. 1, 5s. *Exchequer* (Welsby, Hurleston, and Gordon). Vol. 2, pt. 2, 11s.

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Mr. Rayson appeals to his employment with various gentlemen of the city, and is at liberty to refer among others to the following, *Philip J. Forbes, Esq.*, of the Society Library, *Wm. Richardson*, of the Mercantile Library, *Dr. John Vandervoort*, Hospital Library, *James W. Beckman, Esq.*, *Prof. John B. Beck*, *Wm. H. Harrison, Esq.*, *Dr. John Watson*, Broadway.

N. B. The possessors of Audubon's work on the Natural History of Animals, just completed, may have their volumes economically and substantially bound by intrusting them to the subscriber.

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## Distribution of the Engravings, and the Annual Report of the Year 1848.

The Engraving of "*Queen Mary Signing the Death Warrant of Lady Jane Grey*," upon steel, and measuring 23 inches by 15½ inches, was finished early in the year, and has been in the hands of the printer ever since its completion. Prints are being taken from it at the rate of fifty per day, and the distribution of them will commence about the first day of May next.

An effort will be made to deliver them as nearly as possible in the order of the receipt of subscriptions. Those Honorary Secretaries, therefore, who transmitted the earliest remittances may expect to be first supplied. The *Outline Illustrations of Rip Van Winkle* will be ready for delivery at the same time with the "*Queen Mary*."

The "*Transactions*" will be published and distributed at the same time with the engravings.

## The Engraving for the Year 1849.

The plate of "*Youth*," being the second picture of Mr. Cole's celebrated series of the "*Voyage of Life*," is in progress under the skilful burin of Mr. JAMES SMILE, who will undoubtedly make it the best large landscape engraving ever executed in this country. A small etching of this picture will accompany the volume of "*Transactions*," about to be published.

## The Medal for the Year 1849.

The subject of this medal is the head of Colonel Trumbull, in continuation of the series of distinguished American Artists, commenced by the representations of Allston and Stuart.

## Bronze Statuettes.

A Committee was appointed some time since by the General Board, to inquire into the expediency of procuring statuettes in bronze for distribution at the next annual meeting. The London Art-Union for several years has expended most judiciously a portion of its funds in encouraging this branch of Art. There has always been a difficulty in this country in obtaining proper workmen, which is the principal reason why reduced copies in bronze have not already been made of several exquisite statues, modelled by our own artists, and which seemed peculiarly adapted to this mode of treatment. This obstacle has now been removed, and there are here at present several persons lately arrived from Europe, who are fully competent to undertake this kind of work. Indeed, the small bust of an Indian, beautifully modelled by Brown, has been reproduced in bronze by one of these artists in a very satisfactory manner. A resolution has accordingly been passed, in accordance with the recommendation of the Special Committee of inquiry, that Mr. Brown be commissioned to model a statuette in bronze, twenty inches in height, illustrative of Indian form and character, and that twenty copies in bronze be cast for distribution among the members of the year 1849.

## Etchings in Outline for the year 1849.

A set of Outlines, similar to the illustrations of *Rip Van Winkle*, will undoubtedly be published for the members of the present year. The Special Committee upon Engravings have the subject under consideration, but have as yet made no Report upon it to the General Board. Due notice shall be given as soon as that body pass a decisive resolution in relation to it.

## The List of Paintings already purchased for Distribution

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